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Colorado Springs Independent

Aaron Fallon

K-12 education guide

Schooling little Monsters

Locals take up the fight against bullying 19

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We're pretty sure Devin never stops smiling.

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TableOfContents

10

Views:

Semper Fi, honey?

My husband looks more like Cary Grant in *Operation Petticoat* every day — accomplished, senior and ravishingly handsome. Ordinarily, this would not be a problem for me. Ordinarily, this Cary Grantness would be cause for a skip in my step and a naughty gleam in my eye. But this is not an ordinary week for military marriages.

14

News:

Unsure about insurance

'It will be interesting to see from a business perspective, and a human one as well, how this plays out," Judy Negley, co-owner of Independent Records and Video, says. "I think that should be something that we can afford to do for a nation, is health care."

30

Seven Days to Live

Black Friday 2012 is turning into a very controversial Black Thursday Evening in numerous big-box stores. In this week's Seven Days to Live, we suggest a few places to go and shop without skipping out on pumpkin pie or getting trampled, as well as one local way to not shop at all, but to still get some cool stuff.

Slice of Life 5
Letters 6
City Sage 8
Street Smarts 9
National View 10
LowDown 11
Between the Lines 12
News: Not on my street corner 13
News: Unsure about insurance 14
News: Air born 15
Noted 16
Give!: Westside CARES 17
Education Guide 19
Seven Days to Live 30
Appetite: Ramon Q's Cantina 32
Side Dish 33
Dine & Dash 36
Film: *Life of Pi* 38
CineFiles 39
AudioFile: The Coup 40
AudioFile: Gold Fields 41
Sound Advice 41
Reverb 42
Playing Around/Big Gigs 42
Listings 45
Stranger Than Fiction 51
CannaBiz 53
Free Will Astrology 58
Advice Goddess 61
End Zone 62
Ranger Rich 63

On the Cover
Photo by Aaron Fallon.

UpComing

The **gift-giving** — and therefore, gift-buying — season is full upon us. In next week's *Independent*, our editorial staff steps out about town to help you spend your dollars where they'll make the most impact — right here at home.

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Alycia Doctor
Sophia Lujan
Alec Rail

John Denver Tribute featuring Ted Vigil — Pair of tickets
Karen Emanuelson

Be A Winner!

Savage Love
Nationally syndicated sex advice columnist Dan Savage is speaking at Colorado College next week. The event is free, but you could win exclusive tickets to meet him at a private reception after the event, with other VIPs. Sign up for the IndyBlast at csindy.com.

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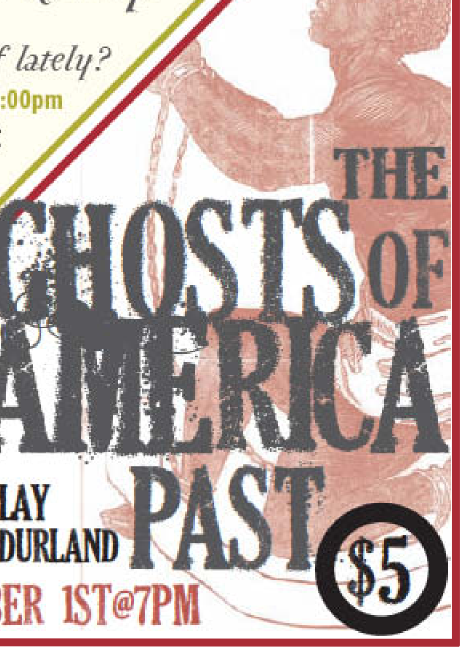
M.E.L.T. is a fairly new treatment that stands for Myofascial Energetic Length Technique. The MELT technique taps into the nervous system and the connective tissue. Scientific research now shows the connective tissue, which runs throughout the entire body, has nerves, which was previously not thought to be the case. The tissue and nervous systems become dehydrated and stressed through daily life, and MELT allegedly helps hydrate the tissue.



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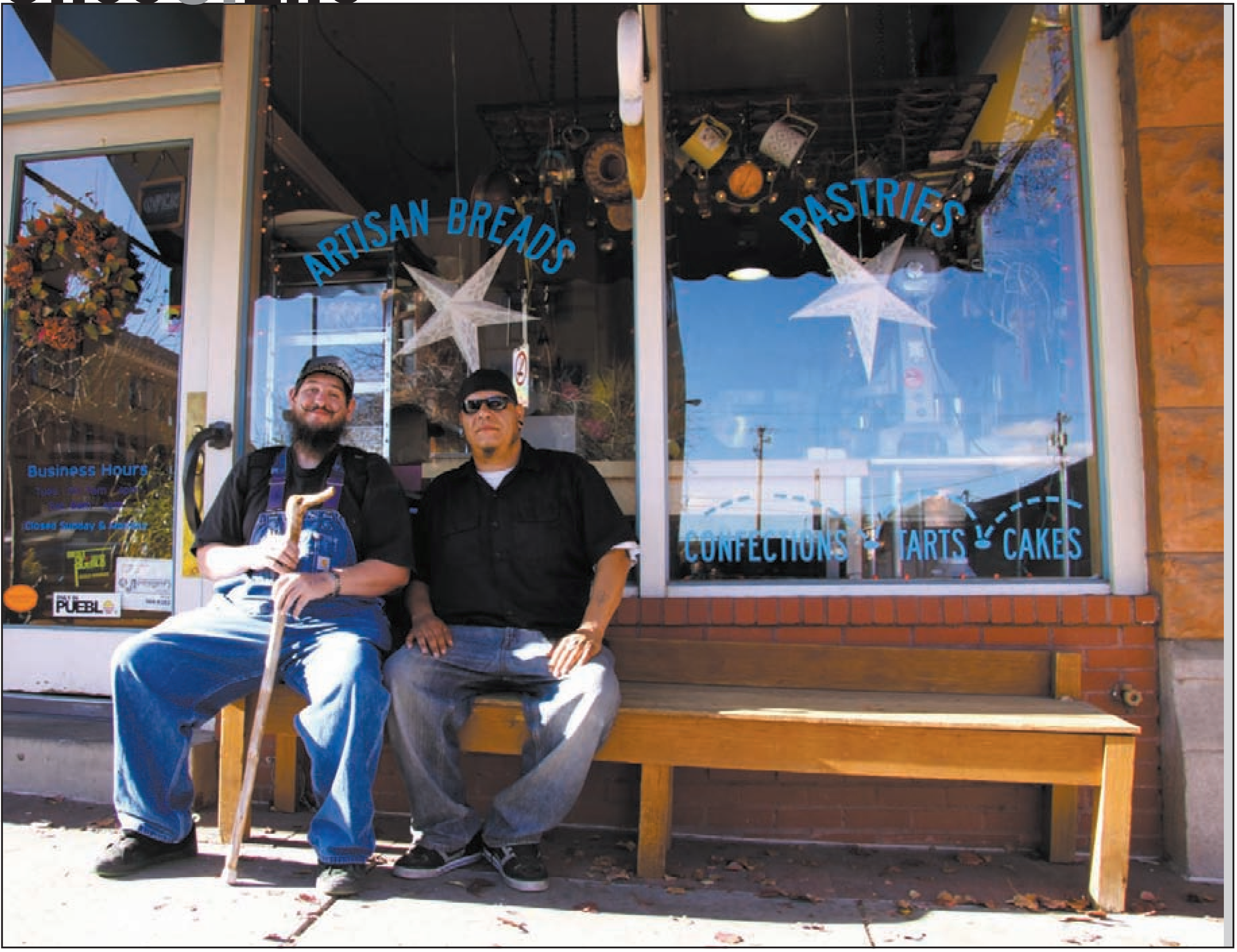
SliceOfLife



Matthew Schniper

Pueblo style: 'Mustache Man' Russ Cronk — yes, it's a nose ring — and a pal kill some time on an unseasonably warm, fine day on South Union Avenue.

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Letters

Editor, 235 S. Nevada Ave., CS, CO 80903 • e-mail: letters@csindy.com

If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

Frack, baby, frack

I am so excited at the prospect of drilling rigs rolling into town. They'll put our abundant water to good use by mixing it with toxic chemicals and injecting this poisonous soup underground. This will help them extract the hard-to-get dregs of oil and gas so we don't have to conserve energy or embrace clean, renewable energy.

The rumble of water trucks and heavy equipment will tell us our economy is on the move. Our children who aspire to be roughnecks and roustabouts will find employment. Heck, they won't even have to finish high school. And these wells have notoriously short lives, so the drilling must never stop. Our health care industry will get a solid boost from treating the rise in cancer, neurological disorders, respiratory and skin ailments, birth defects and infertility.

The tax revenue windfall means the city will have ample cash to subsidize new shopping malls, data centers and baseball stadiums. Out-of-town energy companies will inject money into our local economy via contributions to city council and mayoral candidate campaigns. Many of the hazardous chemicals used in drilling are on the EPA's Superfund list, so it's possible our community could eventually become a Superfund site. If the federal government can come up with the money, efforts to clean up the environment could extend this economic bonanza for decades!

As we all know, if jobs are created, we can just ignore an activity's environmental destruction, a few deaths, or other negative health effects. Drilling and fracking in Colorado Springs is just such a case. If you value the dollar over human life and quality of life, attend the Nov. 27 Colorado Springs City Council meeting and support the proposed rules that — for all intents and purposes — deregulate oil and gas operations in our city.

— Dave Gardner
Colorado Springs

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'The only food that can survive an apocalypse will no longer be made. Well played Mayans. Well played. #twinkies'

— Twitter user Cakalusa earlier this week on Hostess' plan to close. A judge ordered the company into mediation with the bakers' union Tuesday, keeping hope alive.

Giving away the farm

Colorado Springs City Council is scheduled to vote on regulations for the oil and gas industry on Nov. 27, but how can they vote on regulations when they don't even know what is legal to regulate and what is not?

The regulations that have been developed are not based on Colorado statutory and case law, but instead on threats from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, a state agency, and the attorney general, both of whom clearly work for the oil and gas industry rather than Colorado's citizens.

The COGCC has a history of creating overly broad state regulations, and their rules attempting to preempt any conflicting local regulations have been repeatedly struck down by Colorado courts, ruling that local governments do have the right to regulate the oil and gas industry so long as their regulations do not frustrate, but rather can be harmonized with, the state's interest.

Council has been led to believe that because COGCC regulations cover so much of the field of oil and gas regulation there is almost nothing that the city can regulate. Their incredibly weak proposed regulations will not require water quality testing, nor that toxic air emissions must be controlled.

The Pikes Peak Sierra Club's Jim Lockhart has made these points clear to City Council repeatedly (see frackfreesprings.org). The state is likely to be overruled if it argues that the COGCC can preempt all aspects of oil and gas development and operations. Council should contact officials at the Colorado Municipal League, which has produced a white paper supporting local regulation, and the City of Longmont, which has adopted broad oil and gas regulations, to get their view on how Colorado law supports local regulation.

At this point Colorado Springs City Council is about to give away many of our rights to the oil and gas industry.

— Lotus
Colorado Springs

Questioning the ban

To the City of Colorado Springs, regarding the new ban on all panhandling/soliciting:

I am curious if you intend to do a follow-up with the mayor's office, CSPD and City Council on what the measurable, intended outcomes will be from implementing the panhandling ban. Particularly:

1) What methods and indicators did the city use to identify the level of nuisance created by aggressive panhandling?

2) How will we measure whether this broad panhandling and solicitation ban is an effective response to the identified problem?

I am particularly concerned about whether the city has data on the potential impact this panhandling ordinance could have regarding the increase of other types of crime, such as shoplifting, purse snatching, drug dealing and prostitution. Such concerns are cited by the national Problem Oriented Policing Center (popcenter.org/problems/panhandling), but I have not seen any localized information.

November is national Homeless Youth Awareness Month. As someone who works with at-risk youth, I understand that giving money directly to panhandlers can increase the chance that personal charity goes toward enabling negative behaviors. Additionally, I do not think that a panhandling ban excuses someone from committing another crime to gain money.

I have compassion, though, for people who are unable to fully care for themselves and find that — for a short period of their lives — panhandling earnings can help them cope with being on the street. We need to sustain and increase existing community efforts to support people in changing their own lives, not just punitive measures that make poverty invisible.

— Shawna Rae Kemppainen
Executive director,
Inside Out Youth Services
Colorado Springs

Lamborn the fixer

Rep. Lamborn is again announcing to his constituents that the Affordable Health Care Act is fatally flawed and he means to fix it. Note, he used to crow about repealing it, but now the active verb is "fix." Lord save us from well-intentioned fools!

He once warned us (with a straight face) about imaginary "death panels." Well, yes, Mr. Lamborn, there really are death panels, but they aren't anonymous government bureaucrats, as you claimed; they are anonymous pencil pushers at United Healthcare, Aetna, Prudential, et al. So long as private, for-profit insurance companies stand between my doctor and me, the U.S. will remain in the lower tier of health care quality and affordability. Mr. Lamborn belongs to the party that favors corporate profits over citizens' well-being, thus any "fixes" he makes to the Act will likely be for the worse.

— Bill Donaldson
Colorado Springs

Blue states, gray states

The campaign is over and President Obama did in fact win the majority of the popular vote and the electoral college vote. If the Republicans could open their eyes to clearly look at what the majority of Americans see, they would see that we Americans are so privileged to have an outstanding, intelligent, compassionate human being as our national leader.

The Republicans must realize that running a government budget is like running a family budget. You must have income/revenue to cover expenses in order to survive. If every taxpayer paid their fair share there would be no fiscal cliff. If a family maxes out their credit and borrows on the mortgage of their home they are headed for disaster.

That is the same for government. In the past we have started two unnecessary wars (without funding) and we still give huge unnecessary welfare/funding to big oil, the monster agri

LongStoryShort

In a war zone, you never know when the enemy will strike.

While the danger is clear when combatants are all around, you may also suffer a sneak attack while using the restroom or walking to an assignment. Those assaults could come from a known enemy, but they could also come from a stranger, or even a trusted friend.

This is life in a war zone. Unfortunately, for bullied kids, it's also life in our schools.

With advances in social media, kids who once only faced harassment in the school building are now dealing with it in their own bedrooms. Stress, anxiety and hopelessness build up, leading many kids to withdraw, or worse.

While schools and parents grapple with the growing problem, some unusual players are also offering their assistance. Pop star Lady Gaga hopes her Born This Way Foundation will be able to get to the roots of the problems of bullying, and empower kids to create a better, more peaceful world for themselves. She isn't on a solo mission. Young activists and bright professionals across the country are working with her, including a Colorado Springs resident armed with a body of research.

In our annual K-through-12 education guide, we introduce this little-known local warrior, and provide resources that may help you or school-aged loved ones combat bullying on your own. Plus, on a broader-based level, we present a rundown of educational options and helpful lists of schools in our area.

Charge forward to p. 19.

— J. Adrian Stanley

business, big pharma and war profiteers like Halliburton, Blackwater, etc. We must stop nation building and getting involved in civil wars. Balancing a budget is not rocket science or neurosurgery, it just takes a little common sense and a little cooperation from the Republicans in Congress.

Many right-wing pundits have complained about illegal Latino immigrants. Well, most of the Latino voters in my state of Colorado are descendants of residents who lived in Colorado before Colorado was a state. As an American/Latino I resent the continuous disparaging remarks of all Latinos as illegal immigrants. Most Colorado Latinos were here before the so-called pioneers.

I suggest the colors of the political map be changed to blue for the democrats and gray, like mushrooms, for the Republicans. These folks living in the red area of the political map are like the gray mushroom, as they are kept in the dark and fed bullshit.

— Leon Rodriguez
Denver

Stick to your task

It's easy to see that County Commissioner Amy Lathen ("A Fight for Human Liberty," *Gazette*, Nov. 16) gets her talking points straight from FOX News (O'Reilly, Hannity, Coulter, Palin, et al), other pseudo journalists of their ilk and Mitt Romney. These folks continue to disillusion themselves that the recent rejection of the GOP presidential candidate was because of all the "free benefits" that Hispanics, blacks, the poor and the young are getting or are promised by President Obama.

To conflate helping those in need with bribing the electorate raises cynicism to a new level, cheapens our society and is insulting to the vast majority of citizens who pay taxes of some form. Ms. Lathen should stop whining, get over the lost election, and actually start doing something positive for the benefit of our county, state and nation.

Fortunately, there are some leaders doing just that. Contrasting Lathen are the future Republican frontrunners, like Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

Jindal called on Republicans to "Stop being the stupid party … We've also had enough of this dumbed-down conservatism. We need to stop being simplistic, we need to trust the intelligence of the American people and we need to stop insulting the intelligence of the voters."

Responding to Romney's latest recorded gaffe to wealthy supporters doubling down on his earlier "47 percent" comments to explain his election loss, Rubio said, "I don't want to rebut him [Romney] point-by-point. I would just say to you, I don't believe that we have millions and millions of people in this country that don't want to work."

I suggest Ms. Lathen stick to the task for which she was elected, which is certainly not badmouthing the president or constitutional law to suggest that the Benghazi incident is an impeachable offence for Mr. Obama.

— Elfego Gomez III
Colorado Springs

Déjà mutiny

People in 20 states want to leave and take their state with them. A little over 200 years ago we broke away from a government we didn't like, fought a war and declared independence, and set up guidelines for this new-at-the-time country. We were sure we could do a better job on our own. We didn't. Half the country is unhappy again. If the election had gone the other way things would be very different; in that case only half the country would be unhappy. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

There are no new frontiers to run to, there is no place to go. The planet is all crowded up now. It's all bought and paid for. This is bad news for all of us, those who hate it here and those who love it here. There is no more escape, no frontier to run to. We have to stay and fix it this time. That means hard work, tolerance, and cooperation.

Maybe that's not so bad! Obviously when you run away from home and can do whatever you want you just waste centuries making the same mistakes and end up back in the same spot. I hate work and tolerance and cooperation as much as anybody, this will not be easy.

It's like a troubled marriage, do you ask for a divorce or try to work things out? Can we get some country counseling over here! Today there are kids, and there are real estate and money issues, and relatives who have come to rely on us... We can't bicker and squabble and complain all the time. We've worked our way to the top, and with great power comes great responsibility. You can't run away from home, you're only 236! Shut up and eat your broccoli!

— Steve Suhre
Colorado Springs

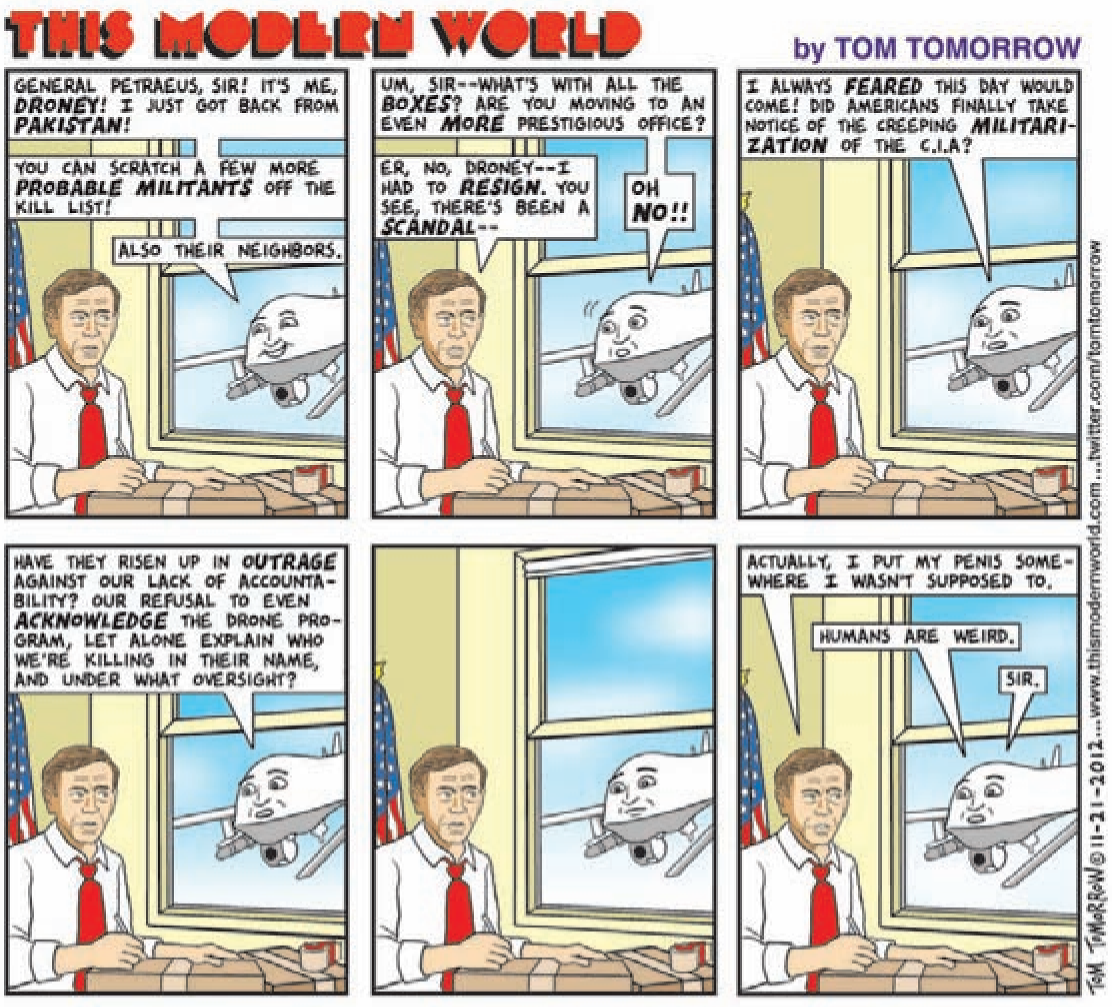
The Gaza story

The Israeli Prime Minister declares: "We have a right to defend ourselves" and repeats it over and over again. The American media consistently covers only Israel's side and not Palestine's. The Palestinians have a right to defend themselves.

In 1948, during the violent Zionist military occupation of the U.N. Palestinian Mandate, they assassinated the U.N. ambassador. In 1967, during their violent military takeover of Gaza and the West Bank, they attacked the *U.S.S. Liberty*, killing 34 Americans and wounding 171 aboard in international waters. Israel has an army, navy, air force and illegal nuclear weapons. Palestine has none, only outdated missiles. The media reports three Israelis killed in recent days but not that 16 Palestinian men, women and children were killed and 170 injured. Israel began this latest aggression on a blockaded Gaza by assassinating a Hamas resistance leader. A few weeks ago the Israelis took credit for the 1988 assassination of the co-chair of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

A report we received from friends in the area says U.S.-made warplanes and navy ships made 140 military attacks in the last four days on 1.5 million civilians, "burned Palestinian babies, mutilated children, devastated neighborhoods, destroyed power plants and infrastructure." We were members of Christian Peacemaker Teams in this war-torn region six times, been tear-gassed, fired upon with mortars and detained by the Israelis. We know the facts on the ground in this war zone. So we (I) ask, who has the foremost right to defend themselves? Why do media and the government cover up the facts? Who is controlling our foreign policy?

— Bill and Genie Durland
Colorado Springs


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
GENERAL PETRAEUS, SIR! IT'S ME, DRONEY! I JUST GOT BACK FROM PAKISTAN!
YOU CAN SCRATCH A FEW MORE PROBABLE MILITANTS OFF THE KILL LIST!
ALSO THEIR NEIGHBORS.
UM, SIR--WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BOXES? ARE YOU MOVING TO AN EVEN MORE PRESTIGIOUS OFFICE?
ER, NO, DRONEY--I HAD TO RESIGN. YOU SEE, THERE'S BEEN A SCANDAL--
OH NO!!
I ALWAYS FEARED THIS DAY WOULD COME! DID AMERICANS FINALLY TAKE NOTICE OF THE CREEPING MILITARIZATION OF THE C.I.A?
HAVE THEY RISEN UP IN OUTRAGE AGAINST OUR LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY? OUR REFUSAL TO EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE THE DRONE PROGRAM, LET ALONE EXPLAIN WHO WE'RE KILLING IN THEIR NAME, AND UNDER WHAT OVERSIGHT?
ACTUALLY, I PUT MY PENIS SOMEWHERE I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO.
HUMANS ARE WEIRD.
SIR.
TOM TOMORROW©11-21-2012...www.thismodernworld.com...twitter.com/tomtomorrow

GetInvolved

Play on

Drop off a new, unwrapped toy at this bank through Nov. 30 to help supply needy children with some holiday cheer through this national charity.

OneMain Financial Toys for Tots campaign
Through November
OneMain Financial Uintah branch,
1736 W. Uintah St.
Contact: 471-9179

Mail in

Send your warm thoughts to service members overseas through this program, which offers a "touch of home" for troops serving over the holidays. Go online for card requirements and sending information, and other volunteer opportunities.

Holiday Mail for Heroes
Through Dec. 7
Contact: redcross.org/holidaymail

Toy with...

Donate to this local toy drive, which operates out of Fort Carson and distributes toys to military families. Go online for information on drop-off locations and information on financial donations.

Mountain Post Santa's Workshop
Contact: tinyurl.com/mountainpost-santasworkshop

For more civic and volunteer opportunities, see Listings on p. 45.

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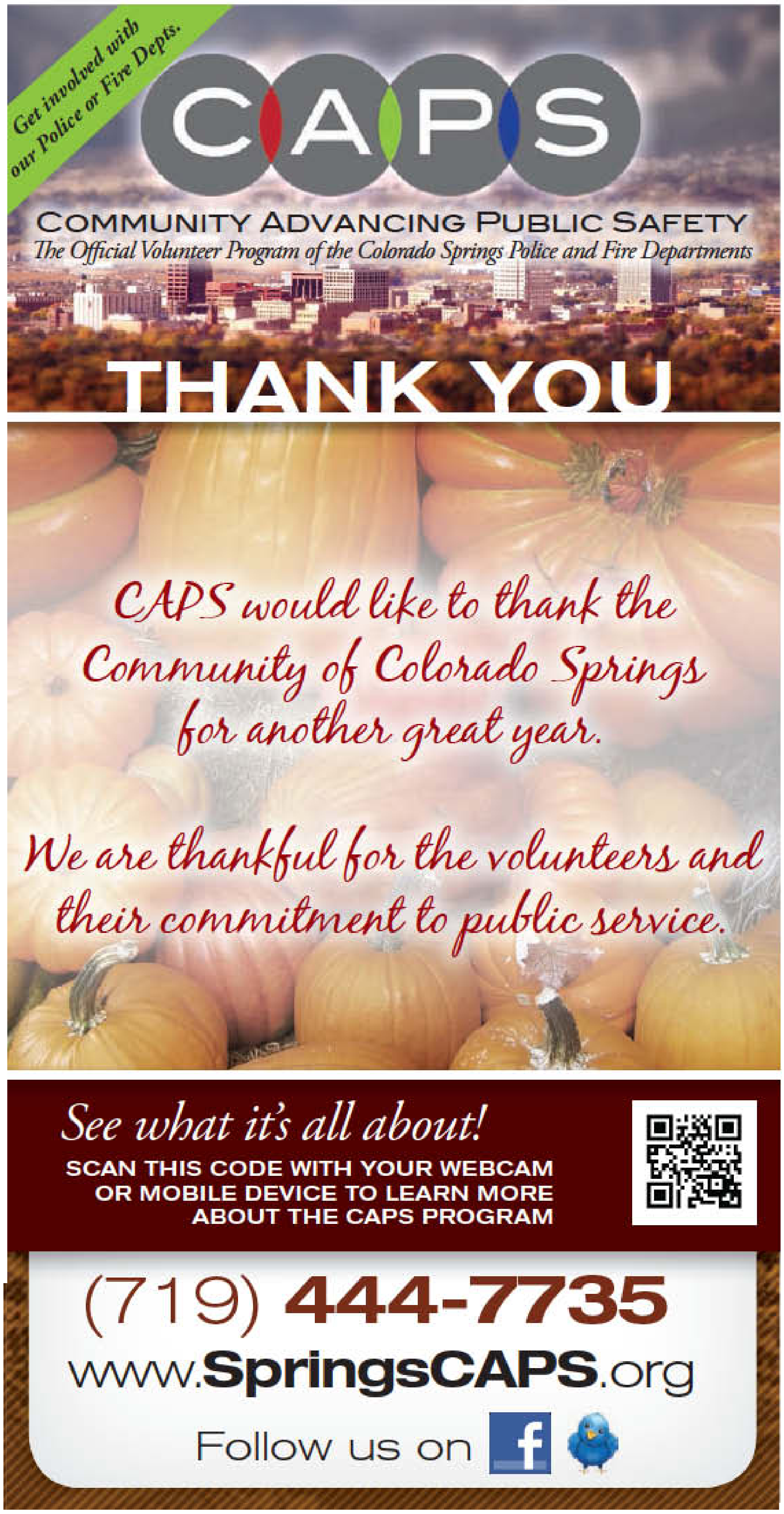
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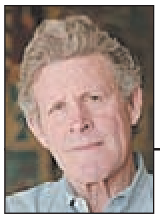

CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

What's the world coming to?

"It is one of the happy incidents of the federal system that a single courageous state may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory; and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country." — Justice Louis D. Brandeis (in dissent), New State Ice Co. v. Liebmann 285 U.S. 262 *(1932).*

By approving Amendment 64 on Nov. 6, Colorado voters did what generations of craven elected officials, from city councilors to district attorneys to state legislators to governors to congressmen to every president since 1970, have been afraid to do. They challenged the lunatic might of the national drug-control bureaucracy.

Drug warriors like to portray marijuana as a "gateway drug," a seductive portal that leads innocent youths to perdition. Close the gateway, so they claim, and we'll all grow up to be healthy, athletic, clean-living folks like **Paul Ryan**, or **Lance Armstrong** or **Paula Broadwell** ... oh, never mind!

Legal dope is much easier to attack than tax limitation.

Legalizing marijuana strikes at the heart of drug control and criminalization — the Controlled Substances Act, signed into law by President **Richard Nixon** in 1970. It divides drugs into five "schedules." Schedule 1 includes drugs with "high potential for abuse, for which there are no accepted medical uses, and for which there is a lack of accepted safety under medical supervision."

The list includes virtually every popular recreational drug of the 1960s. In the halcyon days before worldwide drug control, I tried at least three.

Marijuana made me paranoid, and peyote made me puke. Psilocybin? I fondly remember wandering through cow pastures in Grenada during the mid-1970s looking for mushrooms. We'd walk the fields at dawn, before the fierce tropical sun burned off the blue-tinged 'shrooms that grew from cow patties. Three or four would give you a nice, mellow, day-long high.

My experiences are hardly unique. Millions of Americans have used illegal drugs, and millions have dealt them. Such behavior may be mildly reprehensible, but it shouldn't be criminal, except when truly dangerous substances are involved. Few would advocate blanket legalization of heroin, methamphetamine or cocaine. Fewer still would argue that marijuana should continue to be classified as Schedule 1. The classification is arbitrary, capricious, punitive, irrational and vengeful — thoroughly Nixonian.

Remember when **Douglas Bruce** persuaded a comfortable majority of Colorado voters to approve the tax-limiting, revenue-capping Taxpayer's Bill of Rights? Powerful forces in and out of government did everything to delay, dilute and defang the law. Confident of support, Bruce fought back.

TABOR endures, but it's an emasculated shadow of its former majestic self — as is its author, brought low by ceaseless battle and careless pride.

Legal dope is much easier to attack than tax limitation — so what's next? Though we've reported that District Attorney **Dan May** is re-evaluating cases, he's stated he will not be following the lead of Boulder DA **Stan Garnett** by simply dismissing all minor marijuana cases. (See CannaBiz, p. 53, for more.)

In Washington, federal lawyers are busy fending off another legal challenge to the CSA being considered by a three-judge appeals panel. The courts historically have deferred to government in refusing to change marijuana's classification, but perhaps they'll defer to science and voters this time.

What if they do? And what if the feds take marijuana off the list? It'd be legal, subject only to controls similar to those on alcohol and tobacco.

Amendment 64 doesn't merely require that the state regulate production, distribution, sale and possession of the demon weed. It effectively creates a state-sanctioned indoor marijuana industry, heavily taxed and regulated.

If CSA falls, that structure will not long endure. Tobacco, hops and barley are grown in the open air, not warehouses. Breweries and distilleries locate wherever it makes economic sense, not in unmarked buildings.

A new world awaits. Imagine vast fields of marijuana along our city's eastern edge, irrigated by water from the otherwise-unneeded Southern Delivery System. We could even have a new state song:

"Colorado! Where the dope grows thick upon the plain / And the bloomin' buds can sure smell sweet / When the wind comes right behind the rain."

Or maybe we should just stick with "Rocky Mountain High."

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

StreetSmarts

Too cruel for school

School should be full of fun, good friends and great learning experiences. But all those positives disappear if your peers make you a target of teasing, intimidation and humiliation.

Tanya Saiz of ***central Colorado Springs*** is a ***certified nursing assistant***

Do you think bullying is a big problem in our schools? Yes, it's a huge problem. And the schools don't really address it or do much to prevent it.

Have you ever been bullied? Yes, mostly in middle school. When I asked for help, the school counselor said I should just suck it up.

Did it get any better? I just became a loner so the bullying didn't get to me. Then after middle school, freshman year was the worst. It only gets better when you get out of school.

How can we stop it? It's up to the parents, the teachers and the people in authority to teach kids about it, and help prevent it.

Tracy Norton of the ***east side*** is in the ***military***

Is bullying a big problem? It's a major problem. My son was bullied, and he's only in the second grade.

Did the teachers do anything to stop it? My wife stopped it when she saw it happen. Sometimes there are only one or two teachers to supervise around 100 kids before school.

Do you think it's better or worse than when you were a kid? I think it's gotten better, but I grew up in a rough neighborhood. When I was in middle school I didn't even go out to recess because it was so bad.

What did you do to make the bullies stop? Eventually I just outgrew them, and then I stood up to them and they backed down.

So what can we do to better protect our kids? Bullies are cowards in disguise. They like to travel in packs, and they don't like to be confronted. The best way is to isolate them, and they usually back down.

Tyanne Clark of ***Fountain*** is a ***stay-at-home mom***

Is bullying a problem in our schools? Yes, it's a huge problem that we need to address. That's why my kids go to private school.

What can be done to help? The anti-bullying campaigns are good, and there should be zero tolerance for bullying in the schools. But it begins at home. If my son makes fun of other kids I put a stop to it. We need to teach our kids to help others instead of ridicule.

Were you ever bullied when you were a kid? Yes, in junior high the sixth graders were bullied by the eighth graders. They'd surround us in the halls. But it's gotten worse since I was in school.

Why do you think it's worse? The teachers are overwhelmed. Fewer kids per teacher would really help. And parents need to take responsibility for parenting.

— ***Kendall Kullman***

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"You Deserve to Die"

by Eric Cernyar

Every year, hundreds of thousands of public elementary school children bring flyers home to their parents seeking permission to take part in one of over 3500 after-school "Good News Clubs." The flyers promise an hour or more of fun and Bible-centered character and moral education.

But the snacks, games, prizes, songs, and other activities mask a relentless program of shame internalization and fear indoctrination. The most recently completed 5-year "Good News Club" curriculum cycle features over 5000 references to sin, 1100 references to obedience, 1000 references to punishment, and 250 references to Hell. Children from preschool age up are told – in shockingly malicious terms – that they have "dark" and "sinful" hearts, were born that way, and that they "deserve to die" and "go to Hell."

The Good News Club also teaches students contempt for nonbelievers and "complete obedience" to "church leaders." One lesson teaches that when God commanded the Israelites to annihilate the Amalekites (I Sam 15), the genocide was justified because the Amalekites "refused to believe" Israel's "true and living God." Another lesson ridicules teachers who teach evolution or the "Big Bang" theory as "fools" who "refuse to believe God's Word by faith," and that the punishment for such "unbelief" is Hell.

Now, the Good News Club – with the backing of legions of culture warrior lawyers like the Alliance Defending Freedom (with which I was once affiliated) – is coming to Denver. As part of its "Good News Across America" campaign targeting one major metropolitan area per year, the Child Evangelism Fellowship is actively recruiting dozens of churches to open Good News Clubs in Denver-area public elementary schools.

While the Supreme Court's Good News Club v. Milford Central School decision (2001) prohibits public schools from excluding Good News Clubs on church-state separation grounds, schools are not prohibited from incorporating sensible child protection provisions into their facility use policies. The Supreme Court has held that public schools can censor high school students for trivial humor such as "He's firm in the pants" or "Bong Hits 4 Jesus." For far more compelling reasons, public schools should deny campus access to groups that deliberately traumatize children, attack their fundamental sense of self worth, and intimidate them from thinking openly.

The Good News Club has never before been challenged on these grounds. At www.IntrinsicDignity.com, we outline a strategy for stopping the Good News Club in its tracks. We owe it to our nation's children to challenge these clubs now. It is unconscionable – in any context, especially the public schools – to tell a tender young child that (s)he "deserves to die."

You Deserve to Die:
The Shameful Things the
"Good News Club" Tells
Elementary Schoolchildren
by Eric Cernyar
Tuesday, November 28, 2012
7:00 to 9:00 PM
Penrose Public Library Adult
Meeting Room
20 North Cascade Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

"To teach superstitions as truths is a most terrible thing. The child mind accepts and believes them, and only through great pain … can he be in after years relieved of them."

— Hypatia of Alexandria

Raised in an evangelical bubble, indoctrinated in Good News Club lessons, and groomed to become a defender of the faith, Eric Cernyar donated hundreds of hours to evangelical legal causes over the past decade (including two Good News Club cases).

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By Jacey Eckhart

Semper Fi, honey?

My husband looks more like Cary Grant in *Operation Petticoat* every day — accomplished, senior and ravishingly handsome. Ordinarily, this would not be a problem for me. Ordinarily, this Cary Grantness would be cause for a skip in my step and a naughty gleam in my eye.

But this is not an ordinary time for military marriages. This is a time in which heroes are brought down by their all-too-human flaws. This is a time of women who look like Kardashians turning over their e-mail accounts to the FBI. This is a time of military spouses — male and female — being hand-fed humiliation by the person whose career ambitions they supported for years.

Most of the time, my long-married military friends and I don't think about infidelity. We don't worry about divorce. We know that research from the RAND Corporation shows that even though military members are more likely to be married at every age than their matched civilian counterparts, we are no more likely to be divorced. We feel confident that despite war and danger and the escapades of our own children, our marriages are forever.

Until now. Because Gen. David H. Petraeus is no drunken ship captain carousing in Russia with his junior officers. Petraeus is no wolf preying on females in his chain of command. He seems too much like our own husbands. If he could betray his wife of 38 years and 23 moves and a decade of constant war, what hope do the rest of us have for fidelity?

Petraeus is no wolf preying on females in his chain of command.

Pleading promises

This weekend I treated my husband to the same scene that probably played out in the bedrooms of all 800,000 active-duty marriages. Ours was crowned with me stomping out of the tub clad in a towel and crying, "Please, please, promise me that won't ever happen to us!"

My husband of 25 years thought this was the silliest thing I have ever said. And I have said a lot about infidelity through our own history of seven deployments, 16 moves and two so-called geographic bachelor tours, when he was sent on assignment without us.

I don't mean that either of us has jealous tantrums or that either of us is a cheater. I mean that when military life requires that you spend so much time apart, your marriage confronts one of the factors shown to contribute to infidelity: opportunity.

When we were first married, the opportunity was all mine. My husband was stationed on an all-male ship in the middle of the Persian Gulf. I was a 22-year-old girl who thought it was "no biggie" to go dancing with a bunch of naval aviators.

"It was just dancing," I claimed. "What are you so mad about?"

Later, the opportunity was all his. I was home with a baby and no friends, and he was making port visits. One night he woke me up with a call from a 7-Eleven in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"Some girl was flirting with me a little too much," he said. "I thought I should go get a Klondike bar instead."

Marital policies

Although there are no firm numbers about infidelity and the military, I suspect that we are a lot like other Americans. From my experience as a military marriage consultant, I'd estimate that a third of military marriages are probably blighted by infidelity — about the same as civilian marriages.

And so we set up our little rules and policies to keep our marriage safe.

We talk. We identify the rare, much-too-attractive individuals in our work and social circles whom we need to keep at arm's length.

Fidelity is ingrained in us now.

So why has the Petraeus scandal reduced me to a wet towel and tears? I watched the Petraeuses on TV and noted that, like my husband, the general is in that Cary Grant stage of a military career.

I watch them and I am suddenly aware I look less like the buxom nurse in *Operation Petticoat* and more like Grant's co-star, Tony Curtis, every day. And not the young Tony Curtis, either.

Meanwhile, early next year my husband will deploy for the eighth time. So, not surprisingly, all I can think as I watch the Petraeus scandal unfold is: The Kardashians are coming. The Kardashians are coming.

What are our meager defenses against age and distance and opportunity? We talk about the Petraeuses as if we know them; we don't, personally, but in a way we know their life story intimately. And now we know, as they do, that history isn't enough to keep a long military marriage together.

No, I think we always knew it. It is just that now we have a reason to look at this new fidelity and make our plans for the deployments to come.

We reassure each other. We discuss strategy. We laugh over our shared past. We head back to bed.

***Jacey Eckhart, the spouse editor for military.com, is the author of* The Homefront Club: The Hardheaded Woman's Guide to Raising a Military Family.**

LowDown

By Jim Hightower

Mitch and John in Dreamland

Let's see — President Barack Obama won both the popular vote and the Electoral College tally.

Democrats didn't just add to their Senate majority, but added such feisty, progressive new senators as Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin and Mazie Hirono.

Even in the House of Representatives, Dems won the national vote and gained seven seats. Plus, progressives scored victories coast-to-coast on ballot initiatives.

Wow — the only conclusion you can draw is that the Republican Party now has a mandate to set the policy agenda for the next four years!

Huh? Astonishingly, that's the conclusion of the GOP's congressional leaders. I guess we should've expected as much from a party so deeply mired in delusion that its chief political guru, Karl Rove, kept hotly insisting on election night that Mitt Romney had won, even though he'd clearly lost.

The Republican Party now has a mandate to set the policy agenda?

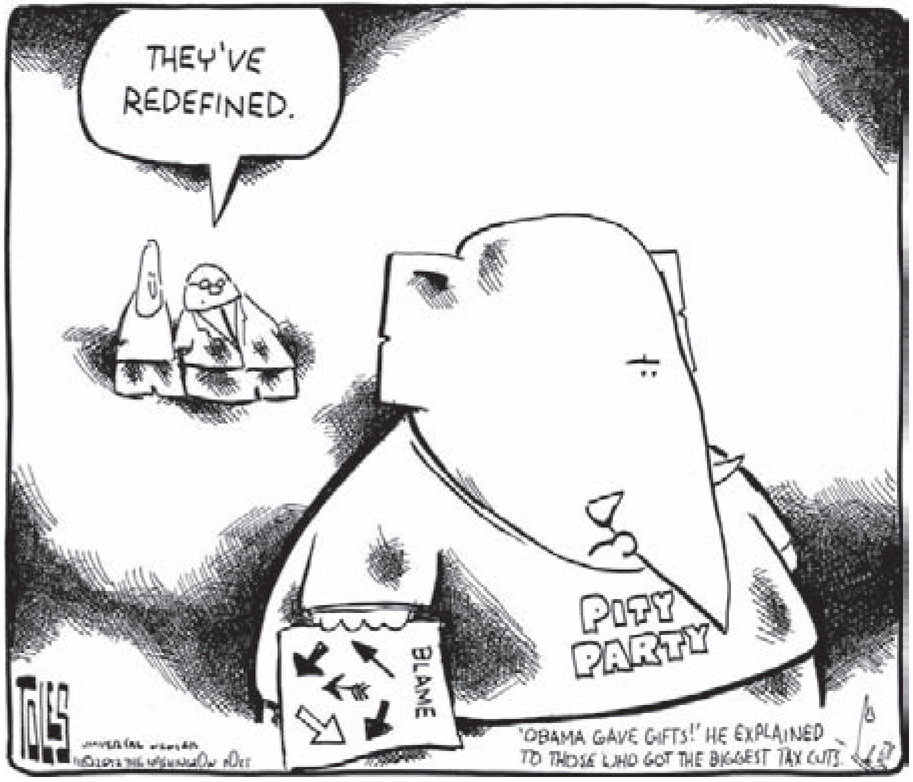
Later, it was surreal to hear Republican House leader John Boehner declare: "We'll have as much of a mandate as [Obama] will."

Then, going from surreal to insane, the Republicans' Senate sourpuss, Mitch McConnnell, proclaimed, "Now it's time for the president to propose solutions that actually have a chance of passing the Republican-controlled House."

Memo to Mitch and John: America just had a year-long, nationwide debate on whether to keep pampering Wall Street hucksters and tax dodgers, privatize Medicare and Social Security, continue whacking the country's social safety net, maintain fat subsidies for Big Oil, repeal Obamacare, and other aspects of your Koch-headed, tinkle-down, ridiculous policies — and you lost!

Far from accepting such twaddle from these GOP fabulists, it's time for Obama and the Democrats in Congress to go to the people who elected them, mobilizing this great grassroots majority to push passage of a bold progressive agenda of percolate-up economic prosperity.

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of* Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow*, on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.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BetweentheLines

By Ralph Routon

Hickenlooper on the offense

As we begin to look toward 2013, with the election fast slipping into memory, one person stands out as Colorado's most fascinating — and unpredictable — public figure to watch.

No, not **Peyton Manning**. He'll be on center stage with the Denver Broncos for the next month or two, but we're talking politics here. Lest we forget, **John Elway** endorsed **Mitt Romney** for president (oops), and Manning just bought into Papa John's pizza, whose founder, **John Schnatter**, detests President **Barack Obama** (hmmm).

So let's leave football alone and talk instead about, you probably guessed it, Gov. **John Hickenlooper**.

From every indication, Hickenlooper will head into his third year as governor with an obvious opportunity to enhance his stature. He's already popular across established boundaries, including those that separate our major political parties. Because he's viewed as business-friendly, and openly supportive of more drilling for gas and oil (he is, after all, also a geologist), the 60-year-old is on good terms with many conservatives.

The budget should signal a smoother road ahead.

Back in 2010, when running for governor, Hickenlooper visited Colorado Springs and spoke to about 200 people in the restaurant that now is Springs Orleans. As he rattled through his priorities, one prominent Democrat in the audience grumbled, "He sounds just like a Republican." And that was probably intentional.

But in recent months Hickenlooper campaigned hard for Obama, and for Democrats in their successful quest to regain control of the Colorado Legislature. On Nov. 1, the governor proposed his 2013-14 budget of $21.9 billion, a 5.4 percent increase. He's pushing for millions more to K-through-12 as well as higher education, more for economic development, more for tourism, more for Medicaid and people with developmental disabilities, and even the first pay raise for state employees in a half-decade.

Barring a major economic setback (can you spell sequestration yet?), that budget should signal a smoother road ahead for Colorado.

Still, don't expect a cascade of legislation that otherwise hit the wall (or would have hit the wall, had it been proposed) when Republicans ruled the House the past two years. We've seen and heard reports that Hickenlooper has cautioned lawmakers not to flood him with controversial bills. On that note, the most prominent example to follow would be a civil-union measure, which came so close to passage last year.

It's also clear that Hickenlooper and many Dems aren't thrilled with implementing Amendment 64 to legalize marijuana. The governor already has been asking for federal advice before moving ahead with actions regulating the commercial growth and sale of weed.

Don't be surprised, then, if Hickenlooper assumes the "bad cop" role in holding back Democrats from wielding their state power too much, perhaps positioning himself for an easier path into a second term.

That is, unless something else comes into play.

Though the rumor mills have remained quiet, Hickenlooper has to be an option to join President Obama's revamped Cabinet for the next four years. Many of those jobs will turn over as Obama sets the course for his second term, and at some point we'll be hearing more about departures and potential replacements.

Among the likely changes will be the secretaries of Energy and Interior, with **Steven Chu** and **Ken Salazar** expected to leave soon. Hickenlooper could fit into either spot, though he could be a surprise pick as Commerce secretary (despite not being on any list for that position at the moment).

Another factor: Hickenlooper and his wife amicably separated this year, which might make him more open to relocating.

That would mean turning over the state to Lt. Gov. **Joe Garcia**, the former president of Pikes Peak Community College and Colorado State University-Pueblo, who's been doing double duty as head of higher education. Garcia, at 55, thus would be up for election in 2014, which could be perfect.

First, though, we have to see what happens with Hickenlooper.

Will he go to Washington soon? Or will he stay, content to continue as governor, perhaps until 2018?

We should know some answers fairly soon.

— routon@csindy.com

Not on my street corner

Banning panhandling downtown may increase problems in other neighborhoods

By J. Adrian Stanley

When City Councilors considered an ordinance aimed at clearing panhandlers from downtown on Nov. 13, City Attorney Chris Melcher sounded primed for a First Amendment battle. He drafted the solicitation ban narrowly, he said, with even a potential lawsuit from the American Civil Liberties Union in mind.

J. Adrian Stanley

Solicitation code changes could affect the west side.

Sure enough, when the public comment period rolled around, so did the objections. But few people actually spoke against the ban on the grounds of protecting free-speech rights — including pony-tailed peace activist Eric Verlo, who dragged his guitar to the podium for a poorly received rendition of “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?”

Instead, most business owners and homeowners talked about concern for their own parts of the city. Imagining a ban that would displace people from 12 blocks of downtown as soon as Dec. 2, those living and working near smaller commercial districts predicted they will bear the burden of more panhandlers, homeless people and drug users.

After the meeting, several Councilors clearly could envision it, too. Said Council President Scott Hente: “I hope it doesn’t [happen], but I’m worried about that.”

Councilor Val Snider said he cast the lone vote against the ban because city staff hadn’t answered questions about alternative measures, but added that “like a squeezed tube of toothpaste,” panhandlers likely would pop up elsewhere.

Councilor Bernie Herpin felt similarly, but preferred the analogy of a squeezed balloon.

Horror stories

Citizens who spoke in favor of the downtown ban tended to live or work in the area, or to represent a downtown group. Perry Sanders, who owns the The Mining Exchange, a Wyndham Grand Hotel, read a letter from a potential client who had declined to host an event at his hotel after a site visit.

“The group walked around last night and someone in the neighborhood harassed them the entire time,” Sanders said, quoting from the letter. “I won’t be able to put our board meeting and shareholders here.”

Others had similar tales of business lost, and of feeling that their own safety was endangered by panhandlers. But when it came to more graphic horror stories, west-siders took the cake.

Linda Schlarb, co-owner of Old Town Propane Co., at West Colorado Avenue and 28th Street, said panhandlers pass out around her store, and leave behind crack pipes and needles. Her customers pack guns or ask her to escort them from their cars. She, too, carries a gun.

“I’ve gone out to fill a tank, come back into my store and I have one [person] passed out on my floor,” she said. “I don’t know what to do with this.”

Another woman claimed that panhandlers and homeless break into homes, and that her neighbor woke during a recent night to find a “meth head” on her porch. At the Red Rocks Shopping Center Safeway, she said, she witnessed a man banging his head into a pole until blood covered him. Just last week, she said, she had to physically push an aggressive panhandler away. “I’m 115 pounds!” she told Council.

Many west-siders favored a law increasing the distance panhandlers can stand from a doorway from 6 feet to 20 feet, and a law against public intoxication. Council passed the former and soon will consider the latter.

But the idea that a full ban was fitting only for downtown didn’t set well with people like Kathleen McFadden, owner of the Range Gallery in Old Colorado City,

“The city attorney [said] that the downtown is very sensitive and very important,” she said. “Well, I think we’re all very sensitive right now ... and we’d like to think we’re real important, too.”

Police presence

In her comments, McFadden also mentioned something that came up numerous times during the meeting: Much of the panhandling the public complains about is already illegal.

An “aggressive panhandling” ban in the city code bans begging in numerous circumstances. For instance, it’s illegal to beg from people who are in a stopped vehicle, or entering or exiting a vehicle, or using an ATM, or sitting at a restaurant patio. Panhandlers have to keep their distance not just from doorways, but also from ticket lines. It’s illegal to beg after dark, to follow someone, to ask again after being refused, to touch someone, to block someone’s way, or to use profane, abusive, violent or threatening language while begging.

Since the law already is very restrictive, many said that better enforcement of the existing law was the answer. Melcher, however, defended the downtown ban, saying that even legal passive solicitation — quietly sitting with a sign asking for help — was scaring away customers downtown.

Police Chief Pete Carey tried to alleviate Councilors’ doubts by saying that he’s increasing enforcement against aggressive panhandling and other offenses on the west side. (He also plans to consider better enforcement in other problem areas.)

Since August, he said, police have made about 60 arrests on the west side for offenses like drinking in public and trespassing. That’s thanks to stepped-up enforcement including two cops on foot patrols during key weekday hours, a weekly visit from the Homeless Outreach Team police unit, plus more patrols along the Colorado Avenue corridor. Vice officers have also been ensuring that liquor stores aren’t selling to visibly intoxicated people.

Carey said he’s been working with neighborhood groups on a campaign to discourage giving to panhandlers, and meeting with the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office to talk about the area’s problem motels, where panhandlers often live. But Carey told Council that, despite anecdotal evidence to the contrary, panhandling — and crime in general — are bigger problems downtown.

“The downtown area has about three times more persons crimes as the west side,” he said. “The downtown area has almost two times more property crimes as the west side. The downtown area has about six times more weapons offenses. And, finally, the downtown area has over four times more disorderly crimes.”

Council must give final approval to the downtown solicitation ban before it goes into effect.

— stanley@csindy.com

Waiting room

City Council’s formal meeting began at 1 p.m. on Nov. 13. With a panhandling ban on the agenda, Council chambers were stuffy and tinged with the smell of human breath. The public overflowed into the hallways.

But Council was in no hurry to hear from the masses. Panhandling was the last item on the agenda. It wasn’t until after an evening dinner break that the first citizen was given their three minutes to speak. Around 8:30 p.m. Council finally voted on the hot item. More than 20 citizens waited out the ordeal.

Councilor Tim Leigh said at a later meeting that he thought the panhandling ordinance should have been bumped to the beginning of the agenda. “Can we have a little more common sense?” he asked. “The whole place was packed.”

Council President Scott Hente sets the agenda. At the beginning of the Nov. 13 meeting, he and his colleagues could have rearranged it, but he says that might have created confusion among those citizens who had planned to come later — especially since last-minute changes urged by Mayor Steve Bach on the panhandling item had already led to some disruption.

While Tuesday’s gone, some wonder if Council could address hot-button issues in a more citizen-friendly way in the future — perhaps by placing them at the top of the agenda to start with.

“I could probably do that,” Hente says, “but [then] I’m playing a little fast and loose with rules.” Though they’re unofficial, Hente says, Council has long followed a set of rules that establish the order of business.

Council could also call a special meeting to deal with only one hot topic, easing the process for citizens. But Hente says it’s not his preference, noting such a policy could lead to a proliferation of meetings.

“I realize we sometimes stay there a long time,” Hente said. “But sometimes, I think that’s better than having two or three different meetings. — ***JAS***

Unsure about insurance

While some local business owners embrace health care changes, others already fear the worst

By Chet Hardin

'You certainly don't want to come across as someone who doesn't care about their employees, because no one cares about their employees more than I do," says Randy Price, president of Rocky Mountain Restaurant Group. "I have discussed with all my management teams, and all my employees — that was a last-ditch plan that we were hoping that we wouldn't have to implement. But with the situation that we are facing, we have to implement these changes."

Bradley Flora

Independent Records' Judy Negley isn't daunted.

Price is talking about cutting his part-time workers' hours in response to requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare. Starting in 2014, businesses with more than 50 employees will have to provide health care coverage for any employees who work more than 30 hours a week.

In the days since President Barack Obama's re-election, a Florida Denny's franchisee and Papa John's CEO have made headlines by announcing that they will institute similar policies, as well as price increases, to cover ACA requirements. While tiny in comparison to those national chains, Rocky Mountain Restaurant Group still owns five restaurants in Colorado Springs and Denver, including three Salsa Bravas, Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill and the new Over Easy.

Price says he simply can't offer insurance to all of his roughly 230 employees. Not only would the cost be significant, there are also the issues of high turnover and the administrative hassle, which, he says, "would be horrendous. ... It's economically not feasible.

"The last three years in this industry have been tight anyway. Our costs are up, and the economy has been challenging."

Economic burden

While Price prepares to adjust his workers' hours, others in the local restaurant industry say it's too soon to prepare for big changes. One of them is Luke Travins, co-owner of Concept Restaurants, whose catalog includes two Jose Muldoon's locations, Flatiron's and MacKenzie's Chop House, among others.

"We have been told by the Colorado Restaurant Association that there is so much yet to be determined," Travins says, such as how ACA will be enforced, and whether certain requirements will be tweaked. "I'm not ready to rush to judgment and make any huge changes to our business operations until we have better information."

Scott Koons, with Colorado Mountain Brewery, feels similarly.

"Right now, we are not doing any major overhauls," he says. "Doesn't mean that it can't happen in the future."

As it stands, explains Denise de Percin, executive director of the left-leaning Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, there are two scenarios in which an employer of more than 50 could be penalized under ACA.

Scenario 1: An employer offers insurance to those working 30-plus hours, but it's not affordable. The employees go to the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange to shop for an insurance plan that suits their budget, and even possibly qualify for a tax credit (if they make less than 400 percent of the federal poverty level, roughly $45,000 for an individual). In this instance the employer will pay the government a $3,000 annual penalty for each employee who qualifies for the tax credit, minus the first 30.

Scenario 2: If an employer doesn't offer insurance at all, it will have to pay a $2,000 annual penalty, per person, for all staff members, again minus the first 30.

Either penalty is much less than the employer's typical share of an employee's health care plan — the average cost of which is $15,745 for family coverage, according to study released in September by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Still, all this worries Melody Griffin, coordinating director with Junior Academy Children's Centers, the city's largest non-corporate child care provider. She currently offers insurance but says that the vast majority of her employees can't afford to pay their portion.

"We are at an exceptionally narrow profit margin; it's probably less than 2 percent," she says. As for the idea that she could increase clients' costs to cover health care, Griffin says it's not plausible.

> **'It works in other countries. ... It should have been done years ago.'**

"Child care is already a huge percentage of most working families' expense," she says. "You are talking about, for an after-school child, probably $75 to $80 a week. And for a preschooler, you are looking at $170 to $200 a week. It's not like charging 20 cents more a pizza."

De Percin points out that the cost burden from the insurance plans themselves might not be as heavy as Griffin fears: Early implementation of cost-containment efforts in ACA have shown to be effective in Colorado.

"What we've seen in the past two years is, last year, for the first time in 15 years, the overall rate of insurance increase was below double digits," De Percin says.

"And this year ... it was 7.4 percent. It's still a lot, but it is so much less than the 15 percent and 18 percent that we were seeing before."

She believes that the increased competition that the state's exchange encourages ought to continue this trend in coming years.

"I don't have a crystal ball," she says, "but those mechanisms seem to be working and there are more mechanisms coming online around cost containment."

Morale and morality

Chuck Murphy, owner of Murphy Constructors, says he expects ACA to impact his business as well.

"Because I will hopefully have healthier employees," he says.

"It's very, very embarrassing that this is the only free country in the world that doesn't offer minimal health care. And it works in other countries. I'm all in favor of some kind of minimal health care, whatever it amounts to. It should have been done years ago."

On this, Judy Negley, co-owner of Independent Records and Video, agrees.

"It will be interesting to see from a business perspective, and a human one as well, how this plays out," she says. "I think that should be something that we can afford to do for a nation, is health care."

Independent Records employs roughly 90 people, maybe 40 percent of whom are part-time, she says. The company currently offers health benefits, and has no plan to change hours or staff size to respond to ACA.

"I haven't lived a day in this business where it wasn't a challenge," she says. "This is something that you find a way to do for the people who make your business to begin with."

De Percin says that the companies that plan to schedule and slash their way out of ACA's path might be overlooking other consequences "in terms of administration and HR, and the fact that you have people less committed to the organization and customer service.

"People don't show up for shifts, and they jump ship as soon as they find a job that does have benefits," she says. "So the idea that they are going to save money by doing this is a little suspect."

Again, Price insists that for his business, the money doesn't add up.

"I'm just as concerned about the morale and the psychological impact on the employees who are going to have to go out and find a second job," he says. "It's disheartening."

— chet@csindy.com

Air born

New World War II museum opens Phase 1, with sights set on future growth

By Celine Wright

‘Rosie the Riveter” is an iconic World War II image. A flash of bicep and the “We can do it!” tagline lends itself to a campaign for women to enter the workforce, and for the United States as a whole to fight the dark cloud overseas, the war wreaking havoc in western Europe.

Courtesy National Museum of World War II Aviation

Actual planes give museum visitors a better understanding of WWII history.

But anyone born after the ’60s grew up seeing this image largely unassociated with its origin — on refrigerator magnets or posters, or altered to fit the latest ad campaign. It’s time, say the founders of the National Museum of World War II Aviation, to pin the story back down.

Their restored airplane hangar on Aviation Way hasn’t yet been open a month, and only does tours three days a week. But with floors polished, restored planes in place, walls covered in exhibit cases and timelines, the WWII museum looks like a top-notch attraction. It’s the only museum in the country focusing entirely on WWII aviation, and once the museum grows more, the board plans to try to achieve congressional recognition as a national museum.

“What we want people to understand is how important the home-front effort really was, because no one really tells that story,” says Col. Jim Stewart, retired Air Force fighter pilot and board co-chairman. “How important it was that women got into the workforce ... and that the technology we developed continues to be the underpinnings of our technology today.”

Taking flight

The museum started with a simple vision about seven years ago. Stewart, 70, remembers imagining something of a “toy store” where visitors could view restored WWII aircraft.

He and Bill Klaers, owner of West Pac Restorations, an aircraft restoration business, created a board of directors and started formulating a plan. Their small concept quickly snowballed into something much larger: the foundation for what Stewart now calls an educational complex.

“What we really want to do is empower the teachers to work in the classroom,” Stewart says, “and then come out and share that experience in our facility.”

Aviation is obviously the museum’s niche, but Stewart, Klaers and Chris Pierce, the museum’s volunteer curator, along with around 40 volunteers, have ensured that beyond eight restored planes, there are plenty of artifacts and information filling the 44,000 square feet. In emphasizing the role patriotism played in the era, they include wartime pamphlets promoting “Victory Gardens,” newspaper clippings, advertisements like those featuring the iconic Rosie; pins, uniforms and much more.

Many artifacts were already part of WestPac’s collection. Others are personal donations from locals “looking to preserve their family’s history,” Pierce says. Once the museum is on the social radar of the area, or even nationally, they expect people will even more readily donate wartime artifacts.

It’s already on one important radar screen. Chelsy Murphy, public relations manager for the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau, says it will be included in the more than 550,000 copies of the 2013 *Colorado Springs Visitors Guide*.

“We think it’s an exciting addition,” says Murphy. “Because of the military presence [in Colorado Springs], it seems like a natural fit.”

Five-year plan

While Stewart says he’s happy with the museum so far, it’s only “Phase I.” In the next five years, he says he’s planning for an adjacent $15 million expansion. They hope to have different schools where students can learn about various aspects of aviation and space that teachers can use to supplement regular school curriculum. This includes STEM subjects — science, technology, engineering and math — and a school where people can learn to work on airplanes.

All that in mind, the museum board is still very much in a fund-raising mode, asking for support from well-heeled individuals and groups who are passionate about aviation and its history. None of the museum’s money is going to come from federal dollars. Nor will it come from local government.

“We really haven’t asked,” says museum spokesperson John Henry, and he doesn’t foresee them doing so. “People are more accepting when you’re privately funded.”

Those who do give money will be helping tell a story unique in the American pantheon. During the war, airplane production increased exponentially, and a nearly nonexistent industry became dominant. Car production almost stopped as Americans shifted their attention and money to aircraft manufacturing.

“In 1944,” says Pierce, “there was a B-24 bomber coming off the assembly line every 55 minutes.”

It’s “one of those amazing times in American history,” he adds, “that you hope doesn’t get lost.”

— cwright@csindy.com

CAPSULE

National Museum of World War II Aviation

Tours Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.; others by appointment. Closed Thanksgiving.

755 Aviation Way

Tickets: $10/adults, $8/seniors, $6/children; free admission for WWII generation and student groups. For more, see worldwarIIaviation.org or call 637-7559.

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News briefs from the Front Range

Drilling heats up

The day is nearing when oil and gas drillers can find out if El Paso County and Colorado Springs sit atop a bonanza of petroleum reserves.

Last week, state officials approved a pact with the county that requires drillers to test nearby water wells three times, before and after drilling. And next week, Colorado Springs City Council will take up the matter of crafting its own regulations.

Drillers, notably Ultra Resources of Houston, think the Niobrara shale formation — which has been productive elsewhere in Colorado — will also pay off here. The county has aimed to monitor their work, in part, by requiring water tests prior to drilling, again after drilling begins, and yet again years later so that officials can measure the impact, if any, on local wells.

State rules don't require such testing. But under last week's Memorandum of Understanding, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) will fold that requirement into its drilling permit process for El Paso County wells, which County Commissioner Chair Amy Lathen called "a win for everyone."

That maneuver is expected to affect City Council's action, because several Councilors in October expressed interest in establishing a similar agreement with the state. In fact, action on the city's rules, which some claim are environmentally toothless, was delayed until the county came to terms with the state.

It remains unclear exactly what the city will try to regulate, or whether Council will open city parks to rigs. Areas previously identified for regulation were related to: a pre-application and site plan process; impact fees; setbacks from certain structures, such as schools; zoning districts; and water quality. Also unresolved is what kind of inspection of wells within the city will take place.

The Council meeting is open to the public and scheduled for 1 p.m., Tuesday, at City Hall, 107 N. Nevada Ave. — ***PZ***

What are parks for?

El Paso County's Parks Department will host a meeting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 27, to discuss early opinions on what's important about the park system and where it should go from here.

The meeting will be at Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, and outline feedback on the county's parks, trails, open space, recreation and cultural programs. The meeting also offers residents a chance to provide more ideas.

It's all part of the county's update of its Parks Master Plan, which guides planning and budgeting for park improvements and programs for five to 10 years. The county has conducted about 17 small meetings, mostly in the homes of people who are active in the park system as volunteers. The department also reached out to certain groups who use sports fields, and hikers and bikers. Plus, an online survey received 150 responses.

Those who attend the Tuesday meeting also will be asked for suggestions in implementing the priorities. — ***PZ***

New super for D-2

After six years as superintendent in Harrison School District 2, Mike Miles moved on earlier this year to take a superintendent position in Dallas. Now, D-2 is importing a Texan to take his place: Andre Spencer, area superintendent for Houston Independent School District, is D-2's pick for the job.

Spencer, who started out as a teacher and worked his way up the ladder, currently oversees 13 schools in his area of Houston. Harrison has 25 schools that count more than 10,000 students. It also has a pay-for-performance system and other characteristics left behind by the controversial Miles. Spencer will start at Harrison on Jan. 1. — ***JAS***

Man with a plan

According to a memo from Chief of Staff Laura Neumann, Mayor Steve Bach has selected Peter Wysocki, director of the Planning and Development Services Department in Round Rock, Texas, from 65-plus applicants to lead city planning.

City Council is required to confirm Wysocki on Nov. 27 before he can take the position. Assuming Councilors don't object, he'll take the reins Dec. 17.

Wysocki, who has 18 years' experience, will replace Kyle Campbell, division manager of the local Classic Consulting Engineers & Surveyors, who has held the position on an interim basis since April. Campbell, who's been paid $175 an hour for his city work, has created controversy during his tenure by laying off longtime department members, creating lower fees for developers, and making recommendations to Council on his own company's projects. — ***JAS***

Military, vets get site

Thanks to the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, local active-duty military members and veterans now have Peak Military Care Network.

Spokesperson Dallas Jamison says one of the early components of PMCN is "a one-stop shop to try to help navigate the crazy amount of information out there." The network includes information on education, health care, employment and housing. The effort, headquartered at peakmilitarycarenet.org, has drawn support from former Fort Carson leader Gen. Mark Graham, as well as U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet.

From Bennet: "The Peak Military Care Network, created by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments ... is community-based and centered around the collaboration of community leaders, military installations, local businesses, and nonprofit service providers." — ***CH***

Briefs compiled by Chet Hardin, J. Adrian Stanley and Pam Zubeck.

Neighbor nonpareil

Westside CARES fills all kinds of troublesome gaps in local families' lives

By Rhonda Van Pelt

Westside CARES staffers laugh a lot as they talk about what they do. It's the easy laughter of people who enjoy working together toward a common goal.

Thanksgiving giveaways are to come.

Bryan Oller

But this staff is serious about helping people survive tough times. Whether those west siders need basics like food or just crave a friendly hello, they'll find it at Westside CARES or the six food pantries in the area that it supplies.

"It's important for Westside CARES culture that we don't talk about 'clients.' We use the word 'neighbor,'" says Steve Brown, Westside CARES executive director. "I think it embodies a west side spirit but it also invites a spirit that comes from our faith communities. Their traditions are strongly embedded in neighborliness and hospitality."

Brown, an ordained minister, leads the nearly 30-year-old, faith-based agency in the principle of loving thy neighbor as thyself. But no questions about religion are asked when someone knocks on the door.

'In crisis mode'

Westside CARES serves those who live west of Interstate 25, south of the Air Force Academy, east of the Teller County line and north of Fort Carson. Families may go to the organization's main site, in the basement of Bethany Baptist Church, and get vouchers for a four-day food supply up to six times per year. Pantries are housed at Sacred Heart Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Church in the Wildwood at Green Mountain Falls, and Community Congregational Church of Manitou Springs, along with community centers on the west side and in Stratmoor Hills.

In 2011, 7,378 families received food.

The nonprofit also teaches people to grow and cook their own food, through a container gardening program and take-home kits filled with whatever ingredients are in abundance, plus recipes that use them.

"It's kind of a back-door way of teaching people how to stretch their food dollar without expecting them to come to a class," says Deb Mitguard, community resource coordinator. "Because our people are really in crisis mode most of the time."

If people need toothbrushes, laundry soap, diapers, any of the basics, Westside CARES can help. If they can't pay for prescriptions, they'll receive assistance through Penrose-St. Francis Mission Outreach and nurse Linda Anderson.

Need bus tokens to get to a medical appointment or a job interview? Check. Need help getting a birth certificate? Check.

A total of 21 partner churches, augmented by countless others in less active roles, supply volunteers who assist the five staffers, a nurse and interns. Westside CARES also collaborates with Goodwill, which donates clothing vouchers worth $5,000 every month. (They're typically gone in about two weeks.) And it works with Colorado Springs Utilities to distribute funds from Project COPE (Citizen's Option to Provide Energy) to help with utility bills.

'We're all kind of holding our breaths.'

"I love that, because Colorado Springs Utilities could just do the COPE funds directly out of their office," says Dorothy Alvarez, program associate. "They could just say, 'OK, you have a late utility bill, let's talk about this.' But they require that those people come to a service like Westside CARES or Ecumenical Social Ministries.

"We get people in our office that have no idea that there are food pantries, no idea that there are other services available. And if they don't have money for their utility bills, they may not have it for other things."

Again making her co-workers laugh, she says, "This is a wonderful gateway drug."

Fire and fatigue

Westside CARES is also among the organizations disbursing the Waldo Canyon Fire Assistance Fund, built from donations that flooded in after the June disaster. Families can go to the agency with a statement from their employers and receive replacement wages for time lost from their jobs.

"We've given it out in $40 and $50 increments," says Maryann Stadjuhar, assistant executive director. "I had a husband and wife come into my office with their two kids, each worked at the same place, and together [their wages] didn't come up to $300 for that week. I do not know how they were doing it."

Has the post-fire wave of compassion left residents with donor fatigue?

"That has been a worry that I have tamped down and tried to pretend that it's not really a worry," Brown says. "There's capacity in this community to meet all of the typical needs, as well as the holiday needs. But we're all kind of holding our breaths to see what's going to happen by the end of the year."

In mid-November, the staff and volunteers were putting together Thanksgiving baskets and gearing up for the Christmas Adopt-a-Family program. They rely on west side schools' counselors and social workers to nominate families needing help, and the community at-large to make it possible.

"We're eager to help more people be more generous during the holiday season by participating in our Christmas Adopt-a-Family program," Brown says. "We need more people, organizations, households."

They remain optimistic — hence the laughter — but the need always exceeds the supply.

"There's a tsunami of holiday generosity and of holiday needs that washes over this community every year," Brown says. "We just try to keep our noses above water."

— newsroom@csindy.com

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Country Club Corners Event Center, 182 E Cheyenne Mountain Blvd.
Call 633-4991 for registration information.

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Schooling Little Monsters

A CC professor tries to help a pop star change the world for today's generation

By J. Adrian Stanley

Lady Gaga's foundation aims to empower youth; researcher and author C.J. Pascoe is now a part of that work.

Colorado Springs seems like an odd home base for a prominent anti-bullying advocate like C.J. Pascoe, who's now helping the cause on behalf of Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation.

Consider: On April 20, schoolkids across the nation shut their traps in observation of the National Day of Silence to acknowledge the harmful effects of bullying. But in Colorado Springs, the day is rejected by Christian conservatives who say it's meant to "promote the homosexual lifestyle." Thus, children of Springs right-wingers instead celebrate a "Day of Dialogue" — by encouraging other students to follow a straight, ahem, and narrow path.

But if the charged environment has slowed 38-year-old Pascoe's stride, it certainly doesn't show. The Colorado College assistant professor of sociology and author of two books was recently named to the seven-member Born This Way Foundation research advisory board, where she's working with others to encourage youth activism and reduce problems like bullying. The Foundation was founded in 2011 by Lady Gaga and her mother, Cynthia Germanotta, and the board includes experts from around the country.

In addition to her foundation work, Pascoe is keeping up a busy schedule at CC, teaching classes on sexuality, deviance, social psychology and masculinity. Pascoe says teaching has kept her current — she's learning from her students, and applying their knowledge and her own to Born This Way's hands-on work.

"What [the foundation] does is it allows me to take all this research that I've done, and read about, and incorporate it into social activism," she says.

The *Independent* talked with Pascoe about the foundation, her books, teaching, and the new world that youths are creating.

***Indy:* Can you tell me a little bit about how you came to be doing this?**

Pascoe: My research background is sort of looking at three things: kids, adolescents, young people and homophobia and the role masculinity plays in homophobia; the way kids use new media; and online pro-eating disorder communities. So because of those three things ... I was invited to be a part of the launch of the Born This Way Foundation in [early 2011] at Harvard [University].

And what they did was bring together a whole host of scholars who looked at different facets of young people's lives ... to do a collective brain dump if you will, to sort of map out the current state of the field on youth culture. Because the question the foundation wants to ask, which I really appreciate is, not just "How can we stop kids from bullying each other?" but "How can we sort of set up a world in which kids can do great things?"

***Indy:* How many researchers were there?**

Pascoe: Oh my goodness ... definitely hundreds of people.

***Indy:* So you stood out, apparently.**

Pascoe: Well, I've worked with the MacArthur Foundation before. So there are several organizations that are partners with the Born This Way Foundation — the Berkman Center [for Internet and Society] at Harvard, the MacArthur Foundation, and the California Endowment. And I had worked on a project with the MacArthur Foundation looking at kids' new media use.

***Indy:* We have to ask: Have you gotten to meet Lady Gaga?**

Pascoe: Sadly, no [laughs]. I have not gotten to meet Lady Gaga yet. I hope to at some point. Her mother is really the point person for the foundation. She is the head of the foundation and she's the one who leads research advisory board phone calls and she's wonderful. She's just a wonderful engaging lady, as you'd imagine Lady Gaga's mother would be.

***Indy:* So, what is your goal right now; what is the goal of the board?**

Pascoe: One of the things we've been doing is gathering research on what factors lead to youth activism, youth resiliency. So from a psychological perspective, from a sociological perspective, what factors lead to the ability of young people to make positive decisions for themselves and positive change in their own world? ...

We've also been helping to build a library of resources that will eventually be a part of the Born This Way Foundation website — resources that are about the sort of empowerment and activism that would speak to young people. ...

The third is putting together a list of resources for young people that are in crisis, and that's now up on the Born This Way Foundation website. ... The fourth thing we've been doing is designing a project which will evaluate the success of the Born Brave Nation Project, which is a project that will be going around the country to different communities to help inspire young people to create social change in their own communities.

***Indy:* Tell me about your books.**

Pascoe: So the first book is *Dude You're a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School*. In that book, I spent a year and a half doing ethnography, or sort of hanging out with teenagers at a working class high school in Northern California. And the main question I wanted to ask in that book is: "After three waves of feminist activism, and this popular notion of 'girl power,' how is it that boys think of themselves as masculine? How do they define masculinity, given that so much has changed for girls?"

And what I found when I did this research was that boys weren't defining or thinking of themselves as masculine in terms of "they weren't girls." Instead, what they did is use homophobic epithets, not to [suggest] a boy was gay, but to indicate that he was not masculine. And thus the title of the book, *Dude You're a Fag*.

I heard that insult — particularly fag ... When I would ask boys why they use it, I'd say, 'Why do you use it? ... Is this because you don't like gay guys?" And they'd say, "Oh, no, no, no, no, this has nothing to do with being gay." And I'd think, "Why does this have nothing to do with being gay?" And they'd say, "No, it means you're not a man. And it means you're not masculine."

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And they would repeatedly tell me that to call someone that was the worst thing you could call someone because as one boy told me, "It means you're nothing."

Indy: **And the second book?**

Pascoe: The second book was a book I co-authored with a bunch of researchers from the MacArthur Foundation called *Hanging Out, Messing Around and Geeking Out*. And in that book we conducted the largest qualitative analysis of young people's media use to date — so how they use cell phones and computers and Facebook and MySpace and all that sort of stuff.

And what we found was that kids had quickly incorporated new media use into their everyday lives, such that they didn't have the sense that there was some sort of offline world and an online world, but they moved fluidly between them. And we also found that their online lives sort of reflected their offline lives; so they weren't going online to sort of meet strangers or engaging in these dangerous practices we often hear about in the media. Instead, what we saw was their online practices were the same sort of mundane stuff we saw in their offline practices: hanging out with friends, flirting, communicating with boyfriends and girlfriends.

> No matter gay, straight, or bi,
> Lesbian, transgendered life,
> I'm on the right track, baby,
> I was born to survive.
>
> No matter black, white or beige,
> Chola or Orient made,
> I'm on the right track, baby,
> I was born to be brave.
>
> — ***"Born This Way" lyrics by Lady Gaga***

The one thing we did see that was sort of new and interesting was the amount of learning that was happening in these online spaces. That is, kids were engaging in these technical practices that they would learn from, if that makes sense. So kids writing, for instance, fan fiction, and peer editing each other's fan fiction. Kids were going online in their own time and writing for fun in a way that teachers and many adults would never expect.

Indy: **Interesting. Going back to Lady Gaga, are you a fan of her music?**

Pascoe: [Laughs.] Yes, I absolutely am a fan of Lady Gaga's music. Actually, I'm writing a talk right now and she is on the playlist that I'm listening to. So, yes.

Indy: **Does a big star approaching these issues seem new to you? Or the way that she's approaching it, does that seem new?**

Pascoe: The first thing that comes to mind is, say, Bono from U2. What I think is unique about Lady Gaga's approach is that she thinks a lot of the change has to come from young people themselves. So instead of taking this top-down approach where "We're adults, we know what's best for you, here's what you need to do," the foundation turns to adults like me, say, for the research base, but turns to young people for the ideas ... [There's] the sense that young people should have a voice and they have original ideas. And so our task as adults is to help those ideas be heard and help them come to fruition.

Indy: **Was there something personal in your life that got you started on all these subjects in the beginning?**

Pascoe: I think what brought me into studying sort of young people and gender and homophobia and bullying is a background in feminism, if you will, and knowing, understanding, that I was a beneficiary of multiple waves of feminism that's allowed me to make decisions in my life that wouldn't have been possible several generations earlier ...

[But] while we've encouraged girls to be aggressive and dominant in all sorts of things, we haven't done the same sorts of things [for boys] in terms of "You can be emotional, and you can be connected, and sort of take on these sort of practices and identities and emotions that we've associated more with women." So I think that's what sort of got me interested in looking at how boys approach masculinity in the first place. This notion that I want boys to — I want to start thinking about ways we can change definitions of masculinity that would be better for boys and young men.

Indy: **So you want to eliminate gender roles on both sides?**

Pascoe: Right, right, or these restrictive gender roles. And then that led me down the path of looking at bullying and the way in which these gendered expectations are sort of part and parcel of this contemporary focus on bullying that we have.

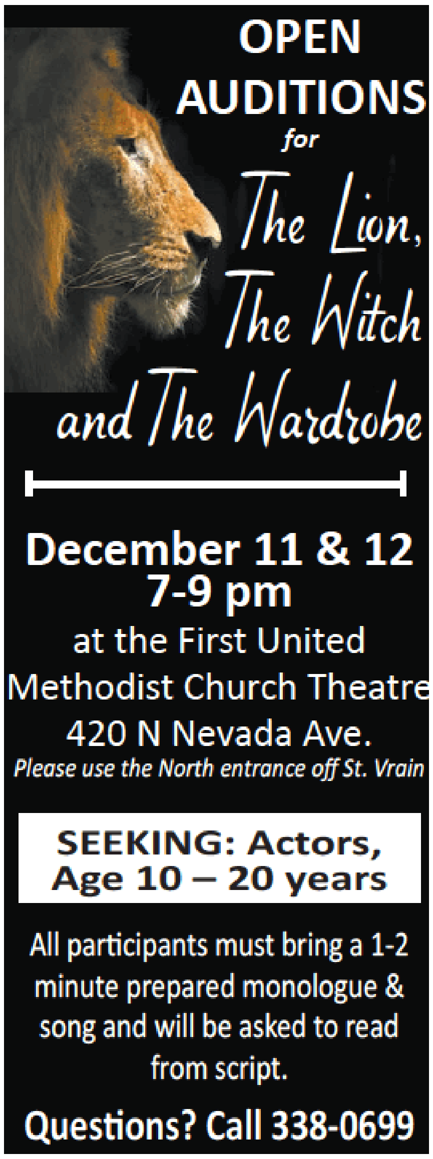
Indy: **Has it been explained to you why Lady Gaga chose this as her cause?**

Pascoe: She did talk a lot about this. So from how I understand it ... she was hearing these stories from her fans and then seeing this spate of suicides across the country, you know when gay kids were talking about how they "couldn't handle this anymore" and so they were committing suicide because they felt so desperate and so alone.

So she realized that she had this money, she had this media presence, and she had this fan base, and she felt compelled to do something about that [the suicides]. So how could she use her stature to make this world a better place for young people — and young people who didn't necessarily fit in?

And she also shared with us that she had been bullied growing up, because she was different, right, she didn't quite fit in. You could see that with a lot of famous people who sort of push at the boundaries of social convention. You can see how growing up [being unusual] probably wouldn't be the easiest thing.

— stanley@csindy.com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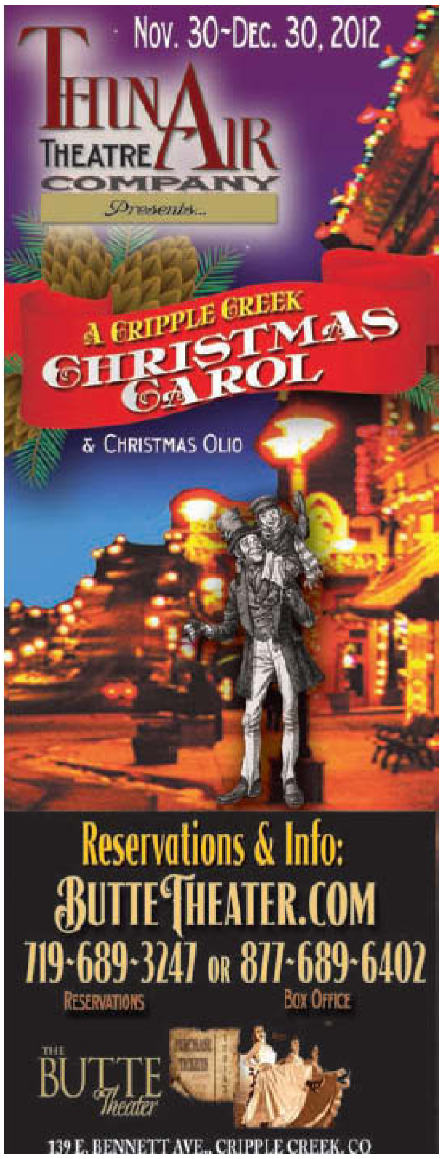
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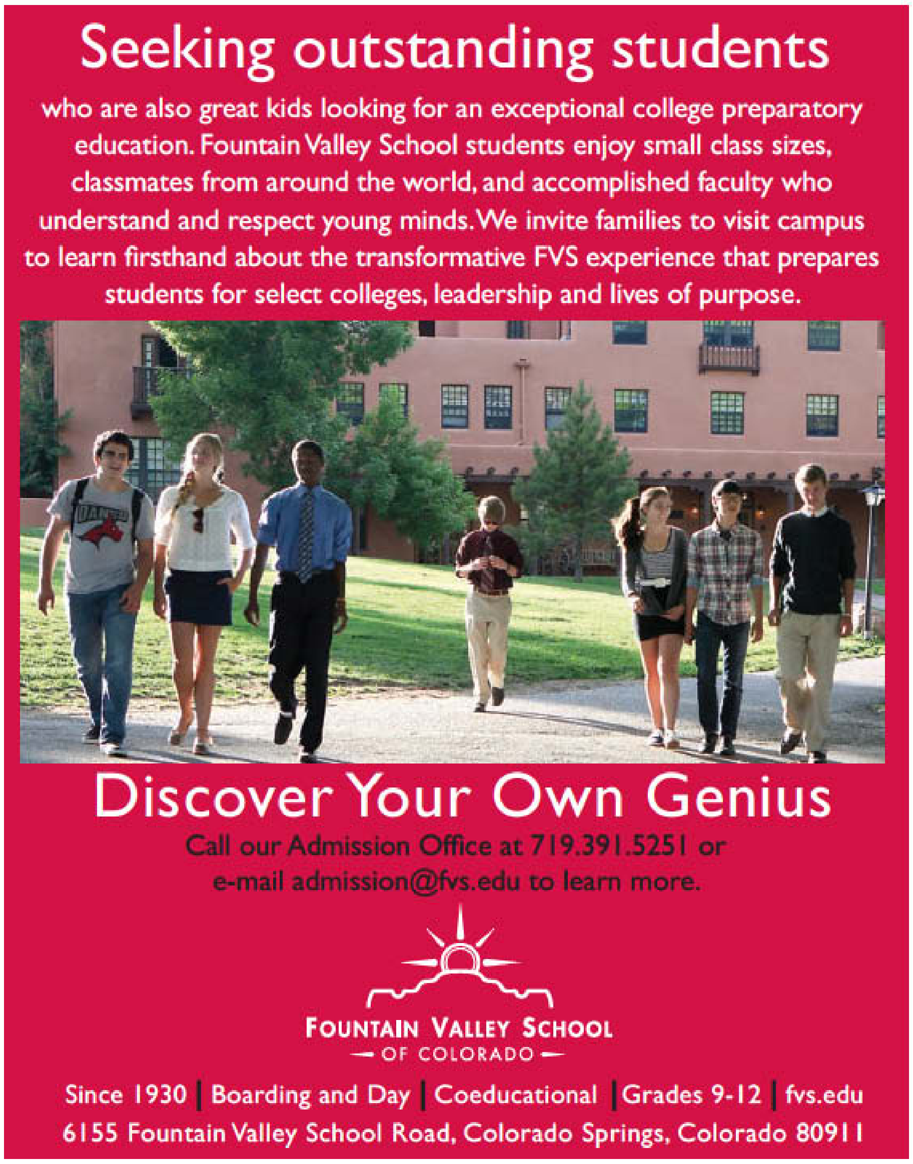
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Sara Khan, *Class of 2011*

As one of only 14 students in the country accepted into a dual-degree college program at Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design, Sara is studying human biology and film animation simultaneously. Sara was a remarkable student at CSS, taking AP courses, tending to the school garden with friends, expressing herself creatively through studio art and video projects, and playing soccer. It is no wonder she was named the recipient of the Margaret White Campbell Award, an award given by the Upper School Faculty to the student who best personifies high personal achievement and extraordinary leadership and service to the CSS community as originally envisioned by the school's founder. Sara is described by her teachers as quiet and undemonstrative, modest and genuinely interested in all academic subject areas. Sara is able to speak with conviction.

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Front-line friends

By Celine Wright

In 2003, a writer with Palmer High School's student newspaper explained the need for a new school club. Within her argument was this quote: "A Gay-Straight Alliance will help establish an atmosphere of tolerance, which is consistent with [the state of Colorado's] legislatively mandated anti-bullying programs."

In the next two years, School District 11 officials responded by spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in a legal fight to keep a GSA (and other student clubs) *out*.

Eventually, those officials would lose their battle. Palmer's GSA would grow into a vibrant club, at times attracting even more than the 20 students who comprise it today. And this past June, the school board would revise its anti-discrimination policy to explicitly cover "transgender status, gender identity and gender expression."

Bradley Flora

Brachtenbach: a Manitou mentor.

Anton Schulzki, a Palmer teacher and the GSA sponsor, has seen it all develop, and he's willing to give administrators and colleagues some credit. "I think we're doing a better job of recognizing it's up to teachers in the classroom to say, 'Hey, that's not appropriate.' Those are the kind of things that go a long way."

But Schulzki knows that even with policies new and old in place, bullying — whether based on sexual orientation, race or other characteristics — will continue to hold challenges for school officials.

The issue has blown up in recent years, with suicides of bullied students setting off nationwide media frenzies. Administrators and teachers can't control what happens outside of class hours, where social-media sites like Facebook provide a virtually limitless forum for antagonizing people. Even if they gain insight to the situation, says Schulzki, "Not all students are willing to name names for fear of retribution, and that's a hard thing to deal with."

A video created by Kidpower teens has attracted more than 5,500 views.

Some students may come from home environments where older family members continue to reinforce stereotypes or disdain for others. And then, of course, there's peer pressure.

But peer pressure can actually be used for good, too. You don't hear about it as much, but students can be positive role models for each other. And there are a number of groups focusing on making that happen in the Pikes Peak region.

Peer power

What if, as a high school freshman, you had an older student who was willing to get up early to help you finish that English paper you were struggling with? Someone who wasn't your parent, or your teacher, but who cared regardless?

Emma Brachtenbach, and the other Peer Mentors at Manitou Springs High School, aim to do just that. They try to make the world of a new school feel less imposing, and more of a home.

"Being able to support someone so they can advocate for themselves and are empowered to do that is a fabulous stepping stone away from acts of violence and bullying," Brachtenbach says. Knowing that there's a helping hand, or reassuring face in the hallway, "combats any negative attacks ... in the future."

Brachtenbach, a senior, notes that in her own freshman year, older girls on her soccer team always helped her out when she needed it. Peer Mentors target incoming freshmen and new students who may not have that kind of built-in support network, making sure they always have an upperclassman to go to with questions or concerns.

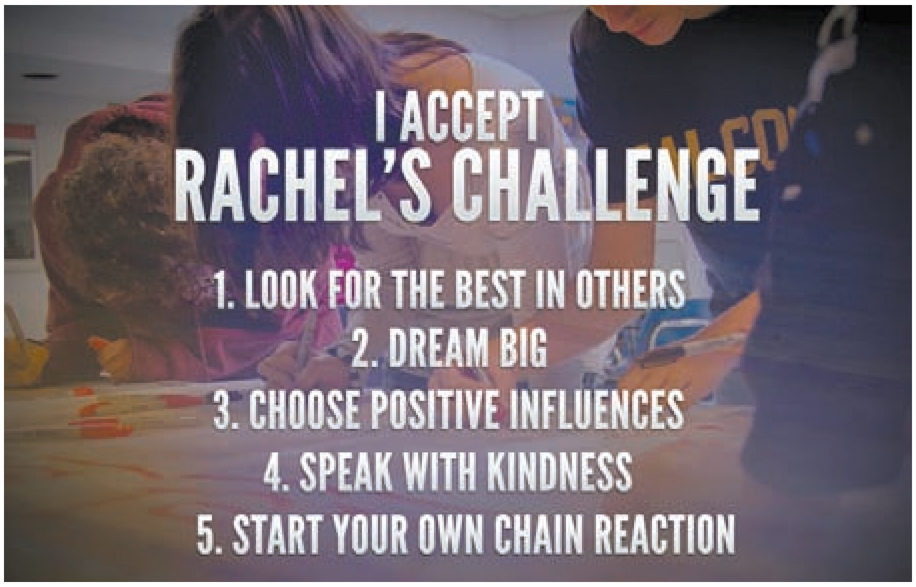
Manitou is clearly fortunate to have students like Brachtenbach, who shows a level of awareness atypical for an 18-year-old. But other students scattered around the region think this way too, and

When it comes to bullying in the Pikes Peak region, many groups try to stop it before it starts

are looking out for their peers under the auspices of Kidpower of Colorado.

Run by executive director Jan Isaacs Henry, Kidpower of Colorado is the local branch of a national nonprofit that promotes personal safety and violence prevention for children and teens. “We teach kids skills so that they can have skills of their own to deal with bullying kinds of situations,” says Henry. Since 1994, Kidpower has both hosted workshops and help programs in schools to help combat multiple types of abusive situations.

A unique facet of Kidpower is its Teen Advisory Board, which Brachtenbach joined after meeting Henry in eighth grade. The board, now in its 12th year, currently includes 16 high school teens from 11 local high schools. (“Because we’re a youth-serving organization, it just makes sense to get feedback from our client,” says Henry.)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1. LOOK FOR THE BEST IN OTHERS
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3. CHOOSE POSITIVE INFLUENCES
4. SPEAK WITH KINDNESS
5. START YOUR OWN CHAIN REACTION

Littleton-based Rachel’s Challenge tries to spread ‘a culture of kindness.’

The Board created a video last year, now available on YouTube, about bullying prevention. Inspired by members talking about their own personal experiences with bullying, it’s attracted more than 5,500 views to date.

Safe and smart

A handful of other local organizations target bullying by bringing their programs to local schools. Among them are TESSA, which focuses on domestic and sexual assault prevention, and Inside Out Youth Services, which offers support groups and discussions for LGBTQ youth.

Meanwhile, Guy Bennett runs a program called Safe Teen through the Suicide Prevention Partnership of the Pikes Peak Region. Safe Teen, which started in 2002, focuses on identifying signs that someone may be contemplating suicide, and risk factors, then suggests “things [students] can do to help their friends,” says Bennett. Via school assemblies and smaller class discussions with more interactive activities, the program has reached more than 12,000 students.

There’s also Rachel’s Challenge. The Colorado-based organization is inspired by Rachel Scott, 17, who was the first person killed in the Columbine High School massacre in April 1999. Shortly before her death, Rachel wrote, “I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction ...”

“Start a chain reaction” is the Rachel’s Challenge catchphrase. “We get categorized as anti-bullying, but we call ourselves more pro-kindness,” says representative Karissa McCoy.

The organization holds school assemblies, but also provides students with assorted resources to create their own clubs on campus promoting a “culture of kindness and compassion.” It is now not only nationwide, but in Canada and Europe, and in just this past September and October, Rachel’s Challenge reached 700,000 students. “We’re not telling them what not to do,” says McCoy. “We’re telling them what they can do to make a difference.”

It all sounds promising, and certainly better than doing nothing. But do students really absorb and take away valuable lessons from these efforts?

“My hope, even if they don’t get it now, is that maybe in college they will,” says Brachtenbach. She adds, “Carrying these skills with you through life is incredibly important so that you have that foundation, so you’re that member of society that is positive.”

— cwright@csindy.com

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Legislatively, there's good news coming out of Denver for public schools. Not only has Gov. John Hickenlooper increased funding by more than $200 million for K-through-12 education in his 2013-14 proposed budget, but should Amendment 64 actually move forward, the first $40 million in taxes annually will be earmarked for school capital construction.

Of course, money aside, local schools — both public and private — continue to innovate and grow, offering up more options then ever when it comes to how and where learning happens. Whether choosing to cross districts or the interwebs, students more and more can tailor their experience to their interests or needs.

Our annual K-through-12 guide provides families with a place to become familiar with the basics locally, and also to start thinking beyond the neighborhood school, if they're so inclined.

This issue is assembled with George Bernard Shaw's words in mind: "What we want is to see the child in pursuit of knowledge, and not knowledge in pursuit of the child."

— Kirsten Akens

The *Independent* contacted each district and private school listed below for basic information and a sense of what's new this year. A few locations did not respond to our calls; in these situations, we have simply included their contact information and basic details culled from their websites. If we've missed a school, please let us know at newsroom@csindy.com.

Almost every local private school offers some type of financial assistance, and many either provide transportation or help coordinate carpooling options. When researching private schools, we recommend that you ask about these options.

K-12: Area School Districts

Colorado Springs School District 11

1115 N. El Paso St., 520-2000, d11.org

Student pop.: 29,071

District 11 is Colorado Springs' largest and most centrally located school district, and aims to help students grow and develop in a global society. New this year, students at Wasson and Mitchell high schools can enroll in a joint curriculum: Bused between the two schools, students can now take courses at both. "Overall, it's good to give kids more offerings," says Devra Ashby, public information officer. Already more than 50 students are taking part. Elsewhere in the district, the Galileo School of Math and Science is transforming its old tennis courts into a one-of-a-kind urban garden, though they're still looking for a community partner to help them complete the project. Their geodesic dome greenhouse already supplies the school cafeteria with produce.

Academy School District 20

1110 Chapel Hills Drive, 234-1200, asd20.org

Student pop.: 24,000

Forward-thinking and motivated, District 20 is known for high student achievement. This year it is one of only two large districts in Colorado to be "Accredited with Distinction" by the Colorado Department of Education based on TCAP (the new version of CSAP) scores. New for 2012, D-20 expanded School in the Woods, a 13-year-old program that gives fourth graders the opportunity to study for one school year as naturalists within a "living classroom." Nanette Anderson, public information officer, says, "It's a very popular program," and now offers space to 78 students instead of just 52.

Falcon School District 49

10850 E. Woodmen Road, Falcon, 495-1100, d49.org

Student pop.: 15,000

This year, District 49 was recognized as a "District of Innovation" by the Colorado Board of Education. Always trying to meld new technologies into the curriculum, the district last month opened the Falcon Virtual Academy, a blended learning facility. The school, which now enrolls 400 students, offers an alternative to the stereotypical school day. At the Virtual Academy, students take most of their classes online and through video conferencing. District 49 has also expanded its International Baccalaureate Program to include all grades. "It's a rigorous, internationally known program," says Stephanie Meredith, public information officer. If students take enough IB classes in high school, they can gather enough credits to be an entire year ahead in college.

Harrison School District 2

1060 Harrison Road, 579-2000, hsd2.org

Student pop.: approx. 11,147

Located in the southeastern part of the city, Harrison is the only district in Colorado Springs to have a pay-for-performance plan for paying teachers and administrators. Aiming to boost graduation rates, the district pays staff based on student assessments, and just received a $4 million dollar grant from the Department of Education to help fund this program. Meanwhile, with the help of University of Colorado at Colorado Springs physics professor Anatoliy Glushchenko, Carmel Middle School just became one of the only middle schools in the country to teach physics at the middle school level.

Widefield School District 3

1820 Main St., Colorado Springs, 391-3000, wsd3.org

Student pop.: approx. 9,300

District 3, located in southern El Paso County, is home to some innovative educational approaches, especially with its online program, D3 My Way. This program allows teachers, students and parents to customize their school day, mixing online core academics with on-site electives and off-hour tutors. Now enrolling over 150 students, the program is offered K-12 and "helps kids who, for whatever reason, don't excel in a traditional classroom," says James Drew, director of communications. The district also offers free full-day kindergarten, a program that traditionally comes with a fee in many other districts.

Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8

10665 Jimmy Camp Road, Fountain, 382-1300, ffc8.org

Student pop.: 7,702

With nearly 70 percent of students coming from military homes, the Fountain-Fort Carson district supports a very mobile population. The district employs integrationists who assist students with acclimating to the environment, and interventionists who work with students academically, one of the few local districts to offer this type of help.

Lewis-Palmer School District 38

146 Jefferson St., Monument, 488-4700, lewispalmer.org

Student pop.: 6,600

"Accredited with Distinction" by the Colorado Department of Education, Monument-based Lewis-Palmer District 38 prides itself on meeting its students' needs, whether those include special education or programs for gifted and talented students. The

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high school graduation rate here tops 95 percent, and about 85 percent of graduates continue to college. New for this year, the school offers a Homeschool Enrichment Academy once a week that enrolls about 50 students. It helps "expand the resources available to homeschool instructors," says Robin Adair, community relations manager. Among the offerings are music, lab science, physical education and experiential activities.

Cheyenne Mountain School District 12

1775 LaClede St., 475-6100, cmsd12.org

Student pop.: 4,529

Located in southwestern Colorado Springs, Cheyenne Mountain is one of the top districts in Colorado in academic achievement. Cheyenne Mountain Junior High was named 2012 Colorado School of the Year, and runner-up for best nationally, by the National Association of Middle School Principals. Superintendent Walt Cooper says this is thanks to "a great combo of outstanding school climate and high student achievement and growth," also evidenced in the 90-percent college attendance rate for CMHS graduates.

Manitou Springs School District 14

405 El Monte Place, Manitou Springs, 685-2024, mssd14.org

Student pop.: 1,507

Manitou is renowned for working with the emotional, social, academic and creative sides of each student, and its small size encourages the development of strong connections among individuals. The district tries to avoid static learning — and they mean it: iPads have been issued to all students in fifth through 12th grades — and works to promote real-world skills. New this year, they expanded their iPad program to include high schoolers. The district's FAIM (Fine Arts Institute at Manitou) program has also grown, now offering 105 music lessons to grade-school students Monday through Thursday. Though there are program fees, FAIM lessons run cheaper than private options, with students paying just a little over $9 per class.

Private Schools

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind — Up to age 21

33 N. Institute St., 578-2100, csdb.org

Student pop.: approx. 210 and responsible for more than 500 in the community

Tuition: CSDB is state-funded and provides tuition-free education. If a local student has been recommended by his or her school district, the district is responsible for transportation.

The school was created to provide education through innovative methods to students who are blind or have limited vision, or are deaf or struggle with hearing. The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind offers services for children from birth all the way to age 21. Services are provided to students at the brick-and-mortar location in central Colorado Springs, in students' home districts, and through many outreach programs for students, school staff and families all over Colorado. No matter the location of the program, says Superintendent Carol Hilty, "CSDB retains skilled and talented staff members who strive for excellence and are deeply committed to providing quality services for all students." CSDB's staff is also known for creating and using innovative instructional strategies that assist all students in reaching their full potential.

Colorado Springs Christian Schools — K-12

4855 Mallow Road, 599-3553; 1003 Tamarac Pkwy., Woodland Park, 686-0706; cscslions.org

Student pop.: 800

Tuition: Varies based on grade level, ranging from $3,200 for half-day kindergarten to $8,200 for high school

Founded in 1971, Colorado Springs Christian Schools teach from a biblical perspective to accelerate students in their preparation for college. According to Erin Wilcox, associate superintendent of instruction, one of the newest changes to the school this year was the addition of 11 dual college credit courses. Students will be able to get college credit in classes like chemistry and leadership at Colorado Christian University, University of Denver, or Indiana Wesleyan University. Another newer program is taught half online and half on-site, available to students from sixth to 11th grade. Families choose which classes to take online and which at the school. Wilcox says that this is helpful for many families since it costs half the price of regular tuition.

The Colorado Springs School — Pre-K-12

21 Broadmoor Ave., 475-9747, css.org

Student pop.: 304

Tuition: Ranges from $6,150 for three-day kindergarten to $18,275 for upper school

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, CSS began as an all-girls boarding school in 1962, but has come a long way from that point. The coed school now encourages students to gain a global perspective starting at a young age. Fifteen percent of upper school students are international students hailing from Cameroon, Angola, Brazil, China and Korea. According to communications director Jessica James, there are buses available to pick up students in all parts of the Colorado Springs area, Pueblo, and Woodland Park. Forty percent of families receive some kind of financial aid and there are many scholarships available to students as well.

Evangelical Christian Academy — Pre-K-12

2511 N. Logan Ave. (elementary), 634-7024; 4052 Nonchalant Circle South (secondary), 597-3675; ecaeagles.org

Student pop.: 310

Tuition: Ranges to a high of $7,455 for high school

Focused on biblically based education, ECA is the largest accredited classical and Christian school for pre-K through 12th grade in Colorado. Bob DeRuiter, principal of the upper school, says the school has upgraded technology and now has four SmartBoards in classrooms. Currently the administration is discussing what it means for the school to embrace classical teaching: DeRuiter describes it as "giving students the tools to learn instead of

continued on p. 28 →

Courtesy School in the Woods

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No wrong answer

How our local schools give students lots of learning leeway

By Kiki Lenihan and Kirsten Akens

When it comes to education in Colorado, students have no end of options. From public to private, age 3 to age 18, today's schools offer up a bit of everything to meet the needs of many different types of students.

Choice

Since the Public Schools of Choice Act passed more than 20 years ago, Colorado students have had the opportunity to freely transfer to any public school, whether inside or outside their district. "It is an advantage to all students in Colorado, so that they can make the decision for what school is best for them no matter where they live," says Robin Adair, community relations director of Lewis-Palmer District 38. She says in D-38 the number of students leaving is about equal to the number of students transferring in.

The window for enrollment choice varies by district, but the period tends to include the first two or three months of each calendar year. And if you miss the window, you're probably not completely out of luck — many schools admit students throughout the year when room becomes available.

That said, space availability is usually the potential curveball in the choice process. When there are more applicants than openings, most districts, including District 38, will turn to a lottery system.

The choice process begins by talking with representatives of a student's home district; most programs are defined on individual district websites.

Charter schools

The idea behind the state's Charter Schools Act, passed in 1993, was to encourage parents, teachers and other stakeholders to take advantage of "new and innovative methods of educating children that are proven to be effective" — while also taking "responsible risks" to create and implement other research-based approaches to educating children in our public schools.

Thus, it follows that there is no charter-school cookie cutter. Technically, any individual or group with a vision for student education can submit an application for a new school to their local district or to the Colorado Charter School Institute.

More than 30 charter schools have found a home in El Paso County, with a variety of emphases — from college prep to creative arts to performing arts to the Core Knowledge curriculum.

Because charter schools receive public funding, all must go through the state accreditation process, and attending students must take Colorado standards-based achievement tests.

Each school has its own application deadline, so check with the specific school for more information. To learn more about charter options, visit the school districts' websites or the Colorado Charter School Institute site at csi.state.co.us.

Online education

As technology continues to advance within our society, schools are trying to keep up and add new styles of learning to their basic curriculum. This may be as simple as adding iPads in the classroom, as Manitou Springs School District 14 has done across grade levels, and as local entrepreneur David Neumann aims to do for 51,000 area elementary-school students through his newly established Neumann Education Foundation.

Or it may be supporting full-time online learning. According to the Colorado Department of Education, more than 16,000 students in the state now attend an online public school.

Locally, CDE recognizes four online schools, state-accredited programs that provide full-time instruction "primarily through the use of the Internet" that are accessible to students both in and outside a particular district. (Learn more at tinyurl.com/onlineincolorado.) But even online schools have a range of offerings.

Consider Falcon Virtual Academy. In just its second year, FVA opened a new campus at 613 Constitution Ave., giving the 400-plus K-12 students currently enrolled four distinct ways to learn.

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—A Fitch

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- His daughter and son preferred cigars to thumb sucking. —A Fitch
- His dexterity and surgical skills have been honed to a razor's edge by "Oregon Trail." —A Fitch
- The office has heated toilet seats. It makes people tip better after a root canal. —A Fitch
- He can't understand why his wife spends so much money at the salon. He purchased a Flobee (suck cut) for Valentine's Day.
- He doesn't believe keeping a loaded gun under his pillow will provide as much protection as a bow staff in his very capable hands. —A Fitch

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of a certified teacher. In the Part-Time Academy, students take a minimum of three courses online from home with the support of a teacher; a parent provides the other three courses through home schooling. (In both, younger students must be supervised, and the number of courses differs from grade to grade.) Meanwhile, the Supplemental Online program allows students to take web-based courses for enhancement or advancement toward graduation.

Finally, the Blended Learning Academy offers online learning provided on campus, where students have individual access not only to teachers, but additional equipment, like that needed for science and art labs. It's an unusual approach, but an intriguing one. "We're really setting a model for how to do the blended classroom," says D-49 public information officer Stephanie Meredith. "People have to be willing to take a little bit of a risk."

Home schooling

Colorado gives a lot of freedom to parents who wish to home school their children. There is no certification needed and parents just have to register their children within their school district and comply with testing requirements. Starting in third grade, students must take national or Colorado standardized achievement tests every other year and achieve adequate scores.

Courtesy Falcon School District 49

Falcon Virtual Academy gives new meaning to being an 'online' student.

While a variety of home school support programs exist across the state (see tinyurl.com/homeschoolincolorado), one of the newest to emerge in El Paso County is the secular Mountain Vista Home School Academy in Harrison School District 2.

Located on a new campus at 2400 Slater Ave., Mountain Vista offers first- through 12th-grade students from all over the Pikes Peak region one day a week classes in art, science, languages, history and technology. By working with local community organizations, such as Millibo Art Theatre, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and Colorado Springs Conservatory, it also provides clubs and field trip opportunities.

Currently, about 230 students are enrolled at Mountain Vista, and according to director Yvonne Padilla, the common belief that "home school students are not significantly socialized ... is completely false."

As Padilla points out, parents tend to have all sorts of different reasons for home schooling their children — from academic needs to religion to developmental issues.

"In any school," she says, "you find diverse types of parenting and it's the exact same within our school."

— newsroom@csindy.com

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➔ *continued from p. 25*

only giving them information." Students can also receive up to 11 or 12 dual college credits from Colorado Christian University. On the financial aid front, ECA works with families individually through the financial aid process, so that "no one is turned away because they can't afford tuition."

Fountain Valley School — 9-12

6155 Fountain Valley School Road, 390-7035, fvs.edu
Student pop.: 236
Tuition: Board $46,300; day students $25,100.

Founded in 1930, FVS is a college prep day and boarding school — 68 percent of the student body reside on campus — where motivated students can be challenged in a close-knit, diverse community. The Global Scholars program gives students a unique opportunity to develop an international perspective through rigorous course work and a focus on global understanding, which culminates in a capstone project and final semester of independent study. FVS also has a mountain campus — located in the Buena Vista/Salida area — that allows students and faculty to escape to the Arkansas River Valley for retreats and school outings. The school values open-mindedness, curiosity, courage, self-reliance and compassion, creating a community that emphasizes a lifelong love of challenge and learning.

HillSprings Learning Center — 1-8

2776 Janitell Road, 576-3840, hillsprings.org
Student pop.: 24
Tuition: $14,200

HillSprings Learning Center specializes in programs for students with learning disabilities or attention deficit disorder, including an after-school reading program and certified tutors. Director Charlie Tye says that the students come to the school for a three-hour intensive — reading, writing, math, etc. — in the morning and then go to their regular schools in the afternoon. Her goal is to train kids for one to two years so that they will be prepared to keep up and succeed in mainstream schools. About 40 percent of students receive scholarships, and the school writes grants and seeks donations in order to help students maintain their scholarships. HillSprings' outreach efforts are expanded further by its five-week summer program for students who cannot afford year-round tuition, and its training programs that equip teachers around the Pikes Peak Region to better serve their students with learning disabilities.

Pikes Peak Academy — 9-12

5590 N. Nevada Ave., 473-5745, pikespeakacademy.net
Student pop.: approx. 50
Tuition: Sliding scale based on family income and family size

Running August through June, Pikes Peak Academy will enroll students at any time during the year. PPA is a private, alternative Christian high school that focuses on students at risk for dropping out. PPA uses individualized academic instruction and concentrates on renewing confidence and hope for students who have struggled to succeed in public school. Registrar Kristin Becker says that the school is academically focused but also has a work-study program where students are able to get internships on or off campus. Because of its small size, staff members say students never go unnoticed, and along with their academic work, they have time to do fun structured activities because the school day ends at noon. Students are mostly recommended to PPA through a referral from their past school or a current PPA family.

Pikes Peak Christian School — Preschool-12

5905 Flintridge Drive, 598-8610, pikespeakchristianschool.org
Student pop.: 375
Tuition: Ranges from $3,357 for preschool to $6,498 for high school

Pikes Peak Christian School is a coeducational school for children 2 years old through high school, where kids can get a "quality, Bible-based education taught by Christian teachers in a safe and compassionate environment." There is a day-care on the premises, and preschoolers through fifth graders get weekly instruction in computers, physical education, Spanish, library, music, and art in addition to core curriculum. Similar courses are offered as electives for middle and high school students, who also have the opportunity to participate in athletics, such as volleyball, football, basketball, wrestling, track/cross country, cheerleading and baseball. The school "strives to identify and develop the academic, social and spiritual potential of each student in partnership with God and family."

St. Mary's High School — 9-12

2501 E. Yampa St., 635-7540, smhscs.org
Student pop.: 335
Tuition: $8,300

Established in 1885, St. Mary's strives to be "Southern Colorado's leader in educating a diverse student body to become moral leaders for tomorrow." Highlights of the 2012 school year include the addition of their eighth Advanced Placement course and an expanding international program, says president John Kraus. Its scores in academics consistently exceed state and national averages — about 89 percent of students pass their AP tests and the average ACP score is 25.9. According to Kraus, "last year's graduates [a class of 65] received over $6.9 million in college scholarships and seven students were honored by the National Merit Scholars." Along with an impressive academic record, St. Mary's is growing its international program and is currently hosting upper-school students from China, Brazil and Austria. Next year Kraus hopes to begin a Mandarin Chinese program in partnership with Palmer High.

Springs Adventist Academy — K-8

5410 Palmer Park Blvd., 597-0155, saaschool.org
Student pop.: 25
Tuition: Sliding scale based on family income; tops out at $350 per month.

SAA is a kindergarten-through-eighth-grade institution with a Christian academic program. This year the school added a computer lab for basic typing and higher-level computer classes. There are more-developed art and music classes than in years past, but even with the addition of new programs, the school maintains a very small student-to-teacher ratio. According to office manager Michelle Ruffin, parents are required to do 20 hours of community service a year while students continuously work on community projects throughout the academic year.

Unified Catholic Schools — Pre-K to 8

Multiple locations, ucsppr.org
Student pop.: Varies by school
Tuition: Varies by school, but approximately $4,544 for Catholic students; $5,574 for non-Catholic students; pre-K rates charged by the month.

The Unified Catholic Schools system includes six locations: Corpus Christi (Pre-K to 8, 2410 N. Cascade Ave., 632-5092); Divine Redeemer (Pre-K to 8, 901 N. Logan Ave., 471-7771); Holy Apostles Preschool (4925 N. Carefree Circle, 591-1566); Pauline Memorial (Pre-K to 8, 1601 Mesa Ave., 632-1846); St. Peter (124 First St., Monument, 481-1855); and Ave Maria in Parker. Each works within the same mission — to "form each student into a disciple of Jesus Christ" — but has separate administration and programming emphasis. For instance, during principal Sandy Rivera's first year, Pauline Memorial has not only become accredited with no deficits for the first time in 10 years, but the school is implementing "21st century skills" into their curriculum, which basically means that students learn how to think critically, through a focus on problem solving. Rivera says that with this set of unique thinking skills and the ability to work in groups on projects, students will be able to prepare themselves to work in the 21st century world. Rivera also brought in a PBIS — Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports — program, which rewards children for good/positive behavior. Teachers award students with "saint slips" that can be used at each month's end at the "Saint Shop" where students trade in slips for prizes.

Thinking globally

From hosting "Geography Days" at the elementary level, to allowing for Skype calls to middle-schoolers across the world, to placing international high school students in families' homes for the year, The Colorado Springs School understands the importance of integrating multi-disciplinary, global perspective throughout education.

Perhaps this is most obvious in CSS' 35-year-old Experience-Centered Seminar (ECS) program. Each March, all ninth- through 12th-graders take part in a 3½-week-long immersive, experiential project. Sam Johnson, director of ECS, says projects vary widely. "Some stay local to keep expenses down; others travel to different places around the Southwest region, and some are national where students travel to Washington D.C., New York or the Deep South."

However, says Johnson, the goal is to "get every student abroad who wants to go abroad."

International options include studying conservation ecology in Costa Rica, free trade in Chile, or global health in Cameroon. The ECS taught in Cameroon is unique because it incorporates CSS' sister school, Fongo Tongo High School. Last year, Twyla Surritte, a math teacher and Upper School dean of student support, co-led a trip to the small town of Fongo Tongo. She said that during their time there, students chose to examine global health, creating a version of the World Health Survey.

CSS students surveyed the entire village, with Fongo Tongo students helping not only translate from French to English, but also helping bridge the cultural divide between students and villagers.

Along with the international experience that students gain during their years at CSS, the Upper School population is about 15 percent international students. They come from all over the globe — from Brazil to China and everywhere between — and live with host families, most of whom are part of CSS. Surritte also highlights the benefits of having international kids within a classroom: "They bring an unique perspective." International students come from all different types of establishments and there are no hard, fast rules for who will be accepted. According to Surritte, CSS just seeks "great students and free thinkers."

— Kiki Lenihan

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FLOCK MENTALITY

As shopping season gears up, GOCA offers up a unique gift option

By Wyatt Miller

What looks like a whole lot of the same thing, but upon closer inspection turns out to be a motley collection of irrevocably unique individuals?

"Humanity!" you might cry out in some epiphany. But actually, the answer (here, at least) is pottery.

"Even though I have the same theme for every piece, I don't want to have them exactly the same as the other ones," says Mark Wong. "It lends more to the show to have each piece an individual, unique being, but at the same time they all tie in with every other piece around it."

The show in question is Wong's *1,000 Crane Platters Project*. It's a variation on the classic 1,000 origami-paper cranes concept, wherein the Colorado Springs-based potter will produce that number of (food- and microwave-safe!) clay platters, each emblazoned with the image of a crane.

Japanese lore, of course, holds that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes is granted a wish. Somewhat cryptically, Wong says his wish is simply to see a thousand platters: "I can't wait to see [the installation] myself ... overflowing with platters."

The project, which will exhibit at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs' downtown Gallery of Contemporary Art (GOCA 121) in February, offers a chance to participate in a unique and fleeting community. Each of Wong's thousand works is being offered — in advance — at $40 to the general public.

> 'Eventually they all go into homes, but together they make a much bigger statement.'

And there's a surprise: Buyers won't know beforehand which they'll get. A lottery, to be held during the show, will determine who receives what.

'VERY DEMOCRATIC'

If that uncertainty is unappetizing, remember the price. According to Wong, 44, the larger plates in his "flock" — which may be 20 inches or so in diameter — normally would sell for upward of $200. In addition, a quarter of the proceeds will go to GOCA.

So for those looking for intriguing and guilt-free holiday gift ideas, Wong's installation might just be one perfect go-to. Participants will receive a numbered card indicating they have purchased one of the as-yet-to-be-assigned, selfsame yet idiosyncratic works, some of which are glazed. ("You'll see some shiny pieces in the middle of a forest of raw clay," says Wong of the final exhibit.) Wong is still churning out the platters; he began in February.

Thus far, GOCA director Daisy McConnell says, about 170 platters are spoken for, with a goal of selling the whole lot by Dec. 30. The most distant participant hails all the way from London, since the nature of the project all but negates distance.

"It's a very democratic show, in the sense that all these people are going to be connected," she says. "There's a pretty low threshold to enter into this project — and to have a tangible remnant of this community experience."

As Wong puts it: "We have an installation of so many pieces that the whole becomes much bigger than the sum of its parts. Eventually they all go into homes, but together they make a much bigger statement."

PRINTMAKERS IN 3D

The project will be part of GOCA's *Ceramica: Contemporary Clay* show, which runs from Feb. 8 through April 12, and will additionally feature a large-scale raw clay installation by Daniel Bare and Valerie Zimany; a suspended clay installation by Jerry Morris; and site-specific multi-material work from Elaine K. Ng.

Why clay? "I think there is something very visceral about it for sculptors," says McConnell. *Ceramica* will feature a contemporary take on what she calls "an ancient art form." (Meanwhile, Wong calls potters "the printmakers of the 3D world.")

"In this region we often see more traditional renditions of clay, the functional potters," McConnell says. "We have wonderful potters here who do beautiful work. But you don't tend to see too many contemporary clay installations."

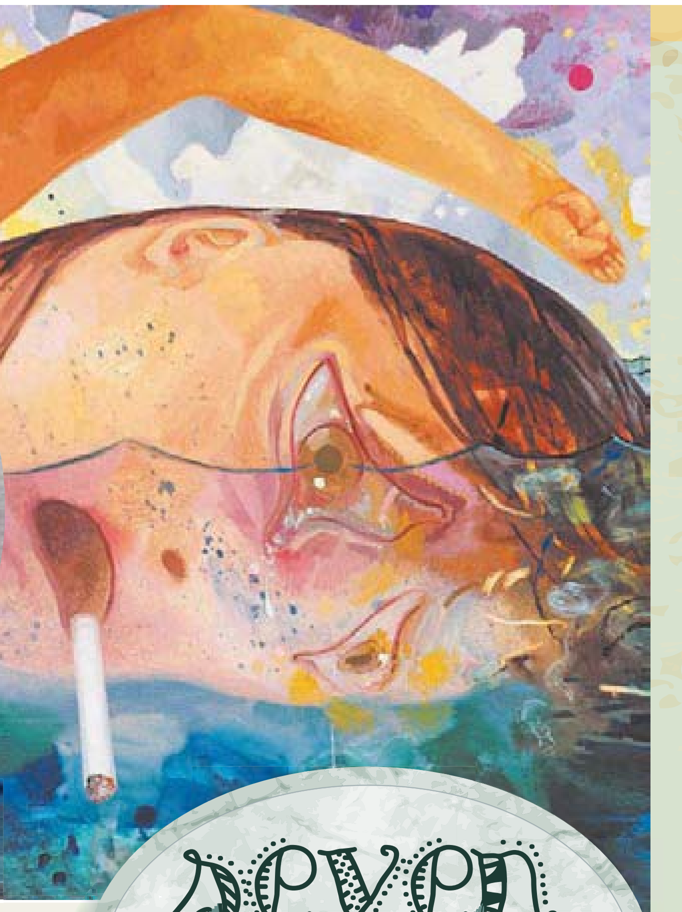
As such, the gallery — in addition to Wong himself — will face the logistical challenge of making such enormous and various installations work within the limitations of the space. This itself, however, is part of the artistic excitement. Says McConnell: "This is experimental, so we're figuring this out as we go along."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

1,000 Crane Platters Project

Platters available for purchase through Dec. 30; for more, visit galleryuccs.org.



seven days to live!

21 WEDNESDAY

art

Dana Schutz's artwork explodes with color and animated line, and burns with figures contorted in varying degrees of distress. The Brooklyn artist often depicts pleasant landscapes as settings for disturbed characters, who cry, chew at their hands or simply seethe with an anxiety that — somehow — provokes compassion, not disgust. In a very appealing and brave way, Schutz illustrates our hysterical selves, a group of which now hangs at her solo show at the **Denver Art Museum** (100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., denverartmuseum.org), ***Dana Schutz: If the Face Had Wheels***. The exhibit opened earlier this month, and remains up through Jan. 13. Tickets run $3 to $13, or free for DAM members. ***— EA***

22 THURSDAY

holiday hustle

Before lapsing into a food coma after Thanksgiving dinner, challenge your dear old uncle to race you at the 15th annual **YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region Turkey Trot**. The 5K walk/run starts at 9 a.m. on the south side of the **Briargate Family Center YMCA** (4025 Family Place, ppymca.org/turkeytrot) and raises money to help provide opportunities for lower income families to participate in YMCA programs. Registering online costs $23, but you can still register on race day for $30. There are no strollers or pets allowed, so get your game face on and trot like the wind. ***— KL***

23 FRIDAY

Green Friday

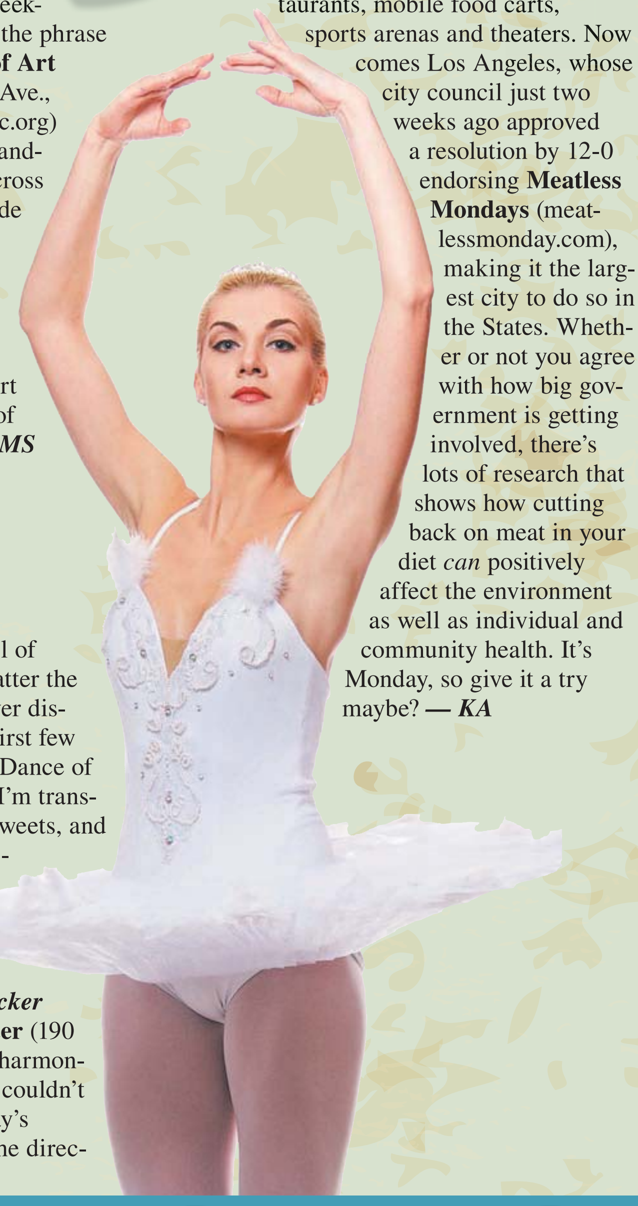
I once asked former *Indy* columnist and vintage aficionado Adam Leech how he finds all the kickass stuff for his store, the Leechpit. He told me, "You get up early, you drive far, you fight crazies." But Springs women don't have to do any of that to score a fashion steal at **Repeat Boutique**, the clothing swap sponsored by the **Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission** (332 W. Bijou St., #102, ppjpc.org). Sure, you may have to dig through a few thousand pairs of yoga

pants, but isn't it worth it if there's a Burberry trench waiting for you underneath? That's $10 — your donation fee — well spent. Arrive at 11 a.m. on the dot for first dibs, or stay till the event closes at 3:30 p.m. to peruse the full gamut of gently used women's and kids' clothing, home décor, books, CDs, DVDs and tools. ***— CAS***

24 SATURDAY

art

Though the words "**Handmade Holiday**" might evoke images of that time you froze your own digits through your gloves reconstructing one of those morbid snowman scenes from *Calvin and Hobbes* (love those too, bro), today and from noon to 5 every weekend through Christmas the phrase refers to the **Business of Art Center**'s (513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, thebac.org) craft show. It collects handcrafted, juried works across all media styles alongside snacks, live music and holiday activities to create a scene equally as active as a Bill Watterson scribbling — though this gift-ready art bears the extra benefit of being locally made. ***— MS***



25 SUNDAY

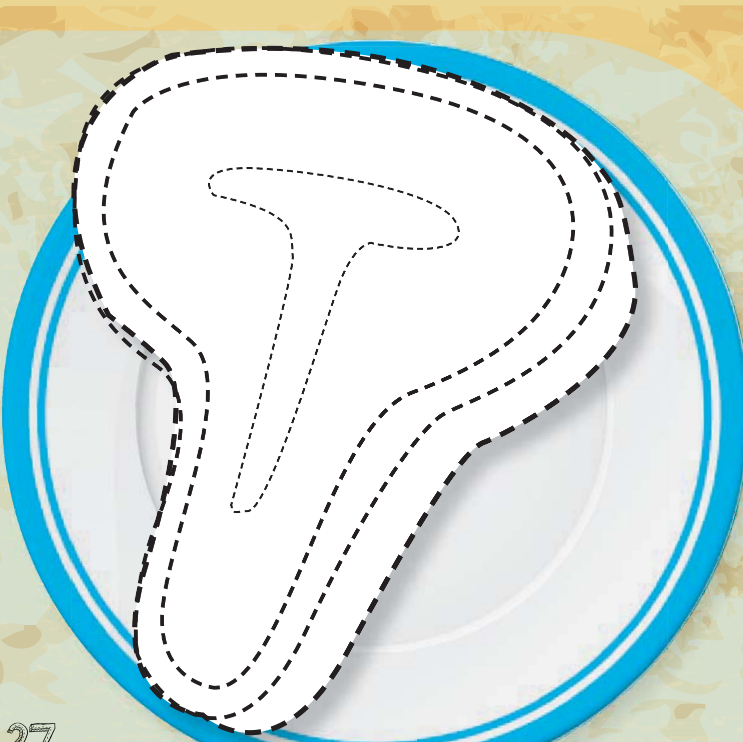
stage

I've been in a handful of *Nutcrackers*, and no matter the role, the excitement never disappears. With just the first few bars of Tchaikovsky's "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" I'm transported to the Land of Sweets, and awash with good memories. Get in the holiday spirit, and go see ***The Nutcracker*** at the **Pikes Peak Center** (190 S. Cascade Ave., csphilharmonic.org) at 2 p.m. (if you couldn't make Friday or Saturday's performances). Under the direction of Peter Anastos, artistic director of Ballet Idaho, 15-year-old local Colton West snagged the coveted role of the Nutcracker Prince. With the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale; tickets start at $29. ***— CW***

26 MONDAY

food

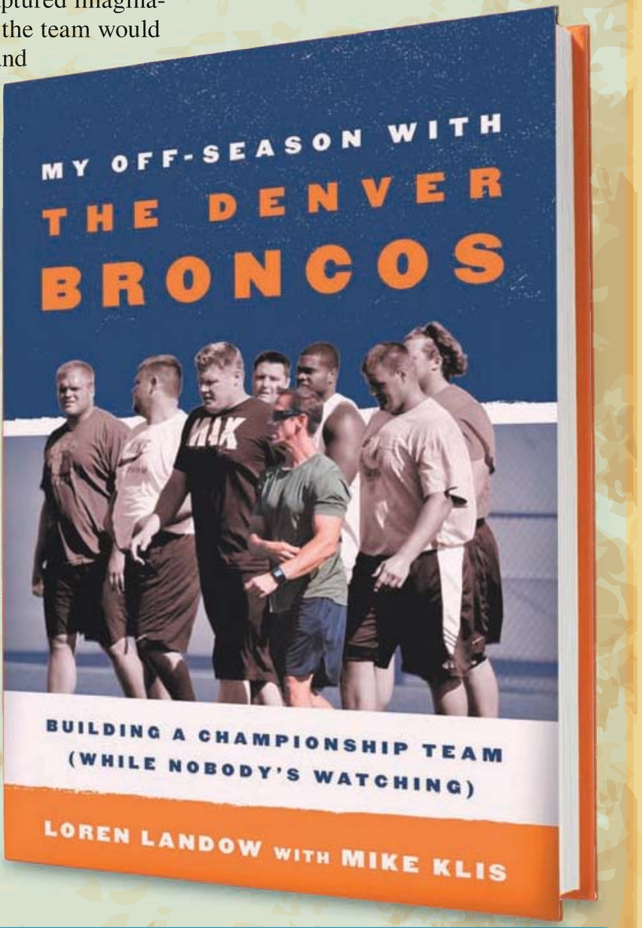
Five years ago, San Francisco was the first city in the nation to ban plastic bags. Earlier this fall, the New York City Health Department banned the sale of sugared pop and sweetened tea larger than 16 oz. at restaurants, mobile food carts, sports arenas and theaters. Now comes Los Angeles, whose city council just two weeks ago approved a resolution by 12-0 endorsing **Meatless Mondays** (meatlessmonday.com), making it the largest city to do so in the States. Whether or not you agree with how big government is getting involved, there's lots of research that shows how cutting back on meat in your diet *can* positively affect the environment as well as individual and community health. It's Monday, so give it a try maybe? ***— KA***



27 TUESDAY

books

Last fall, Loren Landow and Mike Klis must've felt like they were on to something big. After deciding to track the story of the Denver Broncos' 2011 offseason, the player trainer and *Denver Post* scribe, respectively, watched as Tim Tebow's winning-in-spite-of-himself phenomenon captured imaginations for weeks. Maybe the team would make the Super Bowl, and ***My Off-Season With the Denver Broncos*** would rope in everyone who wanted to solve the Tebow riddle. Alas, the magic expired in the playoffs' divisional round, Peyton Manning was signed, and Tebow was unceremoniously shipped to New York. So this fall, *My Off-Season* basically stands as a snapshot of one of the strangest eras in team history. Find out more about it when Landow and Klis sign books and talk shop, for free, at 7 tonight at **Barnes & Noble Briargate** (1565 Briargate Blvd., barnesandnoble.com). ***— KW***


MY OFF-SEASON WITH
THE DENVER
BRONCOS
BUILDING A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM
(WHILE NOBODY'S WATCHING)
LOREN LANDOW WITH MIKE KLIS

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Kiki Lenihan, Matthew Schniper, Claire Swinford, Kirk Woundy and Celine Wright.

4PlaY

Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
Eiko & Koma: Residue, opening reception with Eiko Otake, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 27 at Colorado College's I.D.E.A. Space

Before you know it
Festival of Lights Parade, Dec. 1, downtown

Potato pick
Liz & Dick movie premiere, 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 25 on Lifetime

Have you heard?
Auf deutsch, should I drink a beer? sollteicheinbiertrinkengehen.de

Appetite

Q-czar

New west side Mexican spot finds a niche with its twists on the familiar

By Matthew Schniper

I confess I was a bit skeptical upon hearing Ramon Q's slogan: "Mexican food with a twist," as if they'd really be able to distinguish their tacos and the like from the plethora of others locally. But I bought in when, after her first bite of the Q's Stacked Enchiladas ($12), my dinner guest turned to me and said, "It's good — it's a little different."

And that little difference across the majority of the plates we sampled indeed is the proven twist. It's subtle and sometimes as simple as an unexpected garnish like a cilantro-, garlic-, jalapeño- and lime-laced sour cream salsa drizzled over sides of jasmine rice (itself a spin on the expected Spanish-style grain).

Brienne Boortz

Be it through smoky or sweet notes, margaritas or big smiles, Michael Giberti and Elizabeth St. James will get your attention.

On those enchiladas, the four-tortilla stack versus the traditional wrap presentation primarily distinguishes it, but a dark sauce makes it great. It's homemade (like almost everything) with naturally smoky, house-ground chile de árbol powder meeting spices like cumin and chicken powder. Its spicy earthiness gets slightly tamed by cooling sour cream and cheddar-jack cheese plus the runny yolk of a recommended added egg ($1).

To that same sauce, Ghirardelli dark chocolate chips are added to form chef/owner Elizabeth St. James' awesome, made-to-order mole sauce on a mole chicken plate ($12), consisting of a generous trio of nicely charred, juicy boneless breasts. The twist here is that it's actually chocolate-y, really cacao-rich as compared to the boring jarred versions out there. Only a tomato, onion and jalapeño relish next to good refried beans garnished with cheddar-jack strands and Cotija cheese crumbles keeps the dish from turning into an all-out savory dessert.

CAPSULE

Ramon Q's Cantina

1005 W. Colorado Ave., 434-2741

11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday

Popping smoke

Another big winner with a semi-sweet edge, provided by brown sugar, honey and an interesting orange marmalade added to red chile paste to form a mojo chile dip, is the jalapeño popper starter ($10). The poppers themselves are beyond a twist; they're a complete re-imagining made with bacon, onions, cheddar-jack and cream cheese stuffed into truly hot jalapeños enveloped in wonton wrappers.

The Q's Twisted Burger ($13), nearly as unruly as a Crave burger creation, piles hickory-smoked brisket, marinated in cinnamon and coffee grounds, plus bacon strips, avocado wedges, sautéed onions and jalapeños, and a green salsa over a 1/3-pound patty. It's a flavorful bomb of smoke and spice next to soft potato wedges that could be crispier.

Leaving the twists mostly behind, more conventional yet noticeably fresh dishes can be found in selections like the Q's Blackened Fish Taco Plate ($12) and Q's Deuce Burritos ($13). The former wraps two soft corn tortillas around nicely seasoned tilapia with crunchy cabbage and avocado segments dressed in a Vidalia onion sauce and more of the house sour cream salsa. It's a great light option compared to the gut-testing, heavy Deuce, which is a good price deal over the $10 Uno and a smart choice for moderation over the Trifecta ($17) — a dish that delivers three of the ground beef and refried bean burritos under a flavorful green chile with guacamole, sour cream and more cheddar-jack. Finish that in a sitting as "The Q's Challenge" and it's free.

Also in more familiar, though non-Mexican realms, dessert delivers a likeable vanilla ice cream-filled chewy cannoli (not housemade) with a chocolate and honey garnish and Heath bar crumbles. An Oreo Mousse (also $7) mixes the cookies with graham crackers as a crust and adds more crumble into a vanilla ice cream layer and as a topping. It eats like a recipe found on the back of the box, which is to say it's fine in the way that many holiday-party-type contributions that start with commercial products are. As such, it's perhaps the only item that points to this being St. James' first restaurant venture, where favorite family plates from 23 years as a stay-at-home-mom have been refined for the restaurant atmosphere.

Nice stripes

That atmosphere is impressive, by the way. Past multi-color chairs on a comfortable gravel patio, the former Terrazza Grill has received a major decorative overhaul inside. It includes fresh splashes of red and black paint, an entire wall of decorative mirrors to add the illusion of a larger dining room, handsome dark stone countertops, brushed metal paneling, and wall decorations that range from commanding zebra paintings to local sports paraphernalia. It too is twisted, kind of like an industrial bachelor pad mated with a Southwestern sports bar.

Attentive general manager Michael Giberti adds even more flair with a hint of a New York accent in his lively banter about how good St. James' food is — she's his girlfriend, "the love of my life." Before you've finished being unnecessarily intimidated by his fat biceps, tattoos spilling every which way toward his wrists, he'll have smooth-talked you into one of his two signature margaritas. A trusted food friend has reported cloying over-sweetness to hers and disappointment over two visits, but I was satisfied by my salt-rimmed top shelf order ($7), a blend of oak-cask-aged Cabo Wabo Reposado, orange liqueur, lime and agave.

There are better and many worse margaritas in town, but that's a highly contentious arena, just like our saturated Mexican marketplace at-large. Ramon Q's sports enough interesting touches that it should distinguish itself just fine. After a short few months in business, menu additions continue in response to positive customer feedback on daily specials.

And the proprietors clearly exude passion, which should never have to be considered a twist.

— matthew@csindy.com

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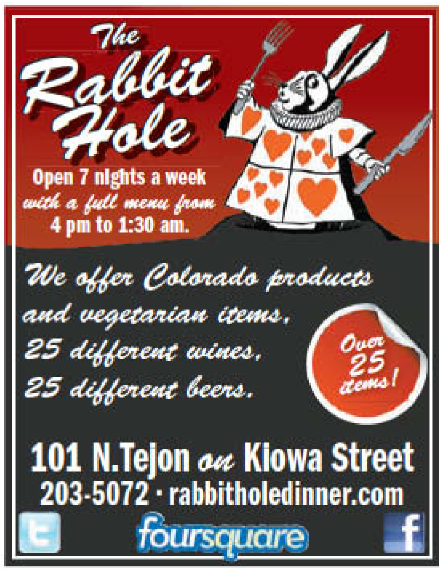
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SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

Deeper Canyon

If it's been a while since you've visited **Canyon Coffee & Café** (1791 S. Eighth St., canyoncoffee.com), newly appointed executive chef Jake Ainsworth, formerly a garmache chef at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort, wants you to know that it's a vastly different eatery and drink shop than you may remember.

Perhaps a chef being here at all, given that the spot's generally been regarded as a coffee shop, hints at the change. Owners Matt and Kimberley Carlson, who took over around mid-2010, remain in the process of overhauling the "vision" of the place, says Ainsworth, starting with elevating the level of cuisine. Though the atmosphere and décor remain relaxed and casual, with the food Ainsworth aims to "take something elegant and bring it down to an everyday eatery — like more of a bistro setting."

Breakfast currently brings smothered burritos and huevos rancheros, and lunch offers diverse sandwiches (with a gluten-free bread option). Daily specials and expanded Sunday specials deliver eclectic pizzas, omelettes and sweet options like banana bread French toast with bourbon maple syrup and cream cheese frosting. A dinner menu planned for springtime may bring items like house-butchered pork chops and a salmon platter.

As for the coffee, Canyon has switched from High Rise Coffee Roasters to Washington-based Dillanos Coffee Roasters, which promotes small-production sourcing.

Taste of Texas

Meet the $9.25 Driftwood Sandwich: sliced beef and Chappell Hill sausage covered with Texas chili or green chile on jumbo jalapeño Texas toast. That's just one of the star sandwiches at **Wood's Barbecue and Burgers** (6620 Delmonico Drive, woodsbbqandburgers.com), which opened in early October in the former Everything Fajita space.

Brothers Darren and Dennis Lemons operate the outfit, using dry rubs and a proprietary blend of four woods to smoke their meats. They formerly ran a metal fabrication company in Houston, but spent more than 15 years at family barbecues and special occasions perfecting their recipes — many of them inspired by their travels, says Darren.

Pumpkin patches

If you're still scrounging for a sip of this year's Bristol Brewing Company **Venetucci Pumpkin Ale**, your best bet at this juncture (to avoid absurd prices at select liquor stores) is likely a special tasting.

Building on last year's lively event (see "The Great Pumpkin visits The Broadmoor" on our IndyBlog), the West Lobby Bar (1 Lake Ave., broadmoor.com) offers a sampling from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 28. For $35 (inclusive), guests each get a bomber plus unlimited snacking on small plates prepared with ingredients from Venetucci Farm.

Side note: Bristol's Christmas Ale (not a far cry from VPA if you like baking-spice notes) releases the following night at 5 p.m. in the brewery's tasting room (1647 S. Tejon St.).

— Matthew Schniper

APPETIZERS

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719-576-5223

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www.OverEasyOnline.com

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Super Nova
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719-635-0200
buffalogalsgrilling.com

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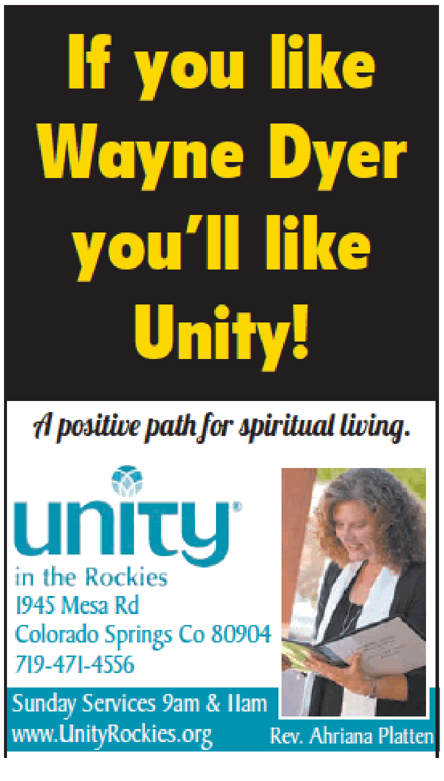

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Peak Grill is such a welcoming little spot that the air literally smells like sugar. It even holds World War II-centric gatherings for local members of the Greatest Generation, while the dining room is full of related memorabilia and newspaper clippings.

Our server was also beaming a smile when she dropped off a carafe of water and a green, plastic pitcher of coffee, and took our order for a **potato skillet** ($7.89) with green chilies, chorizo and green salsa, and **Barb's Best sandwich** ($7.39). The decent former dish took fried eggs cooked in a little bit of water — called basted eggs — and put 'em on a layer of mild potato squares and salty sausage. The latter was a vegetarian star, however: Between buttered wheat toast, a soft bed of creamy avocado supported a middle row of grilled mushrooms, Havarti cheese and tomatoes, with meaty slices of tangy artichoke hearts tying it all down. — ***Bryce Crawford***

Mr. Tandoori Urban Bar & Grill

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Year-old Mr. Tandoori earned Best New and Best Vegetarian restaurant in the *Pueblo Chieftain*'s Best of Pueblo 2012 guide last month. One reason why: English-accented chef/owner Parmy Kandola has spent more than 30 years cooking in the Northern Indian Punjabi style.

The restaurant's decor is splendid, with vibrant seat-back covers and velvety fabric draped from the ceiling. Attention to detail continues with drinks like complimentary cucumber water, a fantastic cardamom-rich iced tea and a gingery spiced chai (each $3) that are all perfectly non-sweet. At the **unlimited lunch buffet** ($10), Kandola's Tandoori Chicken and Chicken Makhani are outstanding and veggie dishes like saag and potatoes are equally bright. Though the meatballs are boring, not everything is labeled and steam turns some spoon handles into hand-scorchers, five dessert options, including a minced, spiced carrot mush and cinnamon-y rice pudding promise a sweet, stuffed departure. — ***Matthew Schniper***

Las Cazuelas Mexican Restaurant

1855 N. Circle Drive, 799-6620

Conventional wisdom suggests that the more hole-in-the-wall a restaurant is, the better its food will be. Well, Las Cazuelas is nearly hidden in the centrally located North Circle Plaza, and comes tucked between Eye of the Beholder Thrift Store and Sonny's Hair Care & Barber — so far, so good.

But, while I can't speak to the menu overall, I wouldn't go back for what we got. The chips were OK; the plain bean-dip fine; and the thin salsa a delicious, spiky bomb. But the ***sincronizadas*** ($2.50) were as interesting a snack as those that come at soccer practice: thin triangles of tortilla holding generic ham and melted cheddar. The ***pescado empanizado*** ($8), a large, breaded filet that benefitted from lime, did better, but there's only so much to be said for the sides: too-smooth refried beans; overcooked rice; and a small, pale pile of shredded iceberg lettuce. — ***Bryce Crawford***

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Film

Faith and the fantastic

Life of Pi (PG)

By Scott Renshaw

There are movies that come along where it almost makes no logical sense that they were ever made — and *Life of Pi* is one of them. Start with a novel by Yann Martel which, while a critical success, is hardly a household name. Make it a mix of gritty survival drama and otherworldly visuals, as though somebody dipped *Cast Away* into a vat of *Avatar*. Give it to a filmmaker whose most notable journey into big-budget fantasy, *Hulk*, hardly endeared him to those looking to make wads of money. Oh, and did I mention there will not be a single actor in the cast recognizable to more than a handful of Americans? Or that its star will be Indian? Or that its religious/philosophical sensibility brushes aside mainstream notions of faith in favor of something decidedly Unitarian-Universalist?

Yep: Time to start doing the blockbuster touchdown dance, all right.

No, it certainly shouldn't exist, yet director Ang Lee has concocted something fairly remarkable, at least in the images it offers. He and screenwriter David Magee stick close to the source, opening with a framing narrative in which a struggling Canadian writer (Rafe Spall) listens to the strange story of a man named Pi (Irrfan Khan). Flashbacks take us to Pi's youth in Pondicherry, India, growing up the son of a zookeeper and puzzling his family with his devotion not just to Hinduism, but also Christianity and Islam. When the family decides to relocate to North America, along with their entire menagerie, they take a cargo ship, which sinks during a raging Pacific storm. The rest of the human passengers and his entire family lost, the teenage Pi (Suraj Sharma) is left on a lifeboat with a few surviving zoo animals, adding a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker to the list of threats to Pi's survival, including starvation and thirst.

From the early scenes of Pi's life in India through his ordeal at sea, Lee serves up some of the most breathtaking compositions you'll see at the movies this year. A shot from beneath a swimmer in a clear pool conveys the sense that he's swimming through the sky; beneath the ocean, Pi watches in silence as the haunting silhouette of the sinking ship slips to the ocean floor. Pi's nighttime contemplation turns into a swirling mass of creatures and images coalescing into a vision of the universe itself. Even the use of 3-D becomes uniquely intriguing, as Lee changes the aspect ratio of one shot so that it feels as though a soaring fish is literally bursting through the frame of the film. A luminescent island populated by thousands of CGI meerkats may feel like it's pushing the story into the realm of the absurd, but it's all still remarkable to behold.

And despite the fact that young Sharma is playing the majority of the film opposite a computer-generated tiger, the survival story proves fundamentally compelling as well. Lee understands that his story is not intended to be harrowing in its psychological realism, nor does Sharma have to play pure existential terror at his plight. He focuses on the interaction between Pi and Richard Parker as metaphor for a frightening natural world that has to be understood, not merely tamed into submission. That he manages to do so in a way that's still often funny and thrilling seems like gravy.

More challenging for audiences might be the way *Life of Pi* turns its title character's journey into an exploration of the nature of faith, and the importance of what faith gives to us in lessons and stories. The answers Martel came up with may prove vexing, and indeed the limited time the first half-hour of the film spends on Pi's multi-faceted youthful experiments in religion makes it harder for the framing sequences to sell its conclusions on the complex nature of God. But, *Life of Pi* does manage to sell the notion of embracing that which is beautiful. That's the level on which Ang Lee makes it work, creating a story about the ideas in our existence that happily defy reason, in a movie that itself exists in defiance of reason.

— *scene@csindy.com*

Leave it to director Ang Lee to manage another visually stunning movie, not to mention a remarkable adaptation of some challenging source material.

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
Life of Pi (PG)	💎	🍿	💎	🍿
Lincoln (PG-13)	💎	💎	💎	💎
The Sessions (R)	💎	💎	💎	💎
Skyfall (PG-13)	💎	💎	💎	💎
Wreck-It Ralph (PG)	📀	🍿	💎	💎

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🍿 Enjoy
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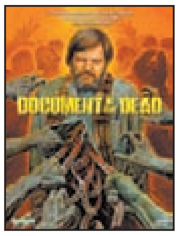
CineFiles

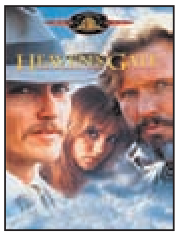
The Definitive Document of the Dead (NR)



Synapse Films

For more than 30 years, director Roy Frumkes has been filming, editing and documenting the career of George Romero, the creator of the modern-day zombie aesthetic. With 1968's *Night of the Living Dead*, Romero transformed zombies from bug-eyed voodoo drones mesmerized by Bela Lugosi into truly terrifying forces of nature. With 1978's *Dawn of the Dead*, Romero pushed the boundaries of zombie-horror even further, and Frumkes was there to capture it all. Originally conceived as a tool for amateur filmmakers, *Document* became something bigger, an account of the rise of zombies in pop culture as we know it today. Frumkes followed Romero for the next three decades, celebrating the man's triumphs and lamenting his failures, but creating something so much more than just a behind-the-scenes video. *The Definitive Document of the Dead* is the end-all be-all of Romero's love affair with the living dead. — ***Louis Fowler***

Heaven's Gate (R)



Criterion Collection

Film fans know that most great movies are happy accidents. Similarly, conventional wisdom holds that Michael Cimino's 1980 historical Western *Heaven's Gate* was an unmitigated disaster. Both so-called truths are more complicated than they sound, and in ways that dovetail beautifully. Cimino's cattle drama, starring Kris Kristofferson, Christopher Walken and a garnet-tinted, constantly cranking fog machine, debuted at a soul-deadening 216 minutes, was roundly thrashed by critics, and probably led to the collapse of United Artists, a studio that had thrived since 1919. But the director, who's hardly worked since, had won Best Director and Best Picture only a couple years before, for *The Deer Hunter*. That film *wasn't* a happy accident; it was infused with Cimino's on-the-edge inner danger and cinematic gusto. And so was *Heaven's Gate*, as this meticulous Criterion restoration (overseen by Cimino) makes clear. Now, the red mist registers and the class tension feels prescient. — ***Justin Strout***

Snowmageddon (PG-13)

Anchor Bay Entertainment

As much flak as SyFy takes for all its monster-hybrid made-for-TV movies, the network is making just as many enviro-horrors that are equally cheesy and worthy of comical derision. The latest to be avalanched on an unsuspecting public is the winter-themed *Snowmageddon*, which is about an Armageddon-like cataclysm, revolving mostly around snow. (There are also earthquakes and volcanos.) And while most of the time SyFy at least tries to present some sort of science, no matter how dubious, behind a film's premise, with *Snowmageddon* it obviously no longer cares — the culprit behind these snow-bound shenanigans is an accursed supernatural snow-globe. That must be thrown into a volcano. Or something like that. With above-average special effects for a basic-cable movie and below-average actors, *Snowmageddon* is a dumb-fun, couch-curling way to waste an afternoon on a cold Colorado, semi-snowmageddon day. — ***Louis Fowler***

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Catching up with the Coup

Frontman Boots Riley debriefs us on the strange politics of party music

By Bill Forman

Next to the Beatles' infamously withdrawn "butcher" cover — in which a blood-spattered Fab Four were photographed cradling plastic baby dolls and hunks of raw meat — the Coup produced arguably the most controversial album art of all time.

The revolution will not be telephoned in: 'You have people sitting in the same room that hate each other, but are working on a campaign together.'

The original cover for its *Party Music* album depicted the Oakland hip-hop duo in front of a flame-engulfed World Trade Center, with frontman Boots Riley holding up what appears to be a detonator. (It's actually a guitar tuner.) Designed in the early summer of 2001, the cover was set to go to press, bizarrely enough, on that Sept. 11.

So when the Twin Towers fell, the politically provocative cover suddenly seemed eerily prescient. Faster than George W. Bush put down his copy of *The Pet Goat*, the Coup's record label pulled the image off the band's website and caught the printer in time to stop the presses.

A decade on, Riley and co-founder Pam the Funkstress keep pushing the Coup agenda, which is as musically intoxicating as it is politically strident. Following a recording hiatus in which Riley collaborated with Rage Against the Machine's Tom Morello in Street Sweeper Social Club, they're back with *Sorry to Bother You*, an album of funk-fueled genius and confrontational imagery.

"Guillotine" is a case in point, pairing the heaviest synth riff this side of Gary Numan's "M.E." or the Gap Band's "You Dropped the Bomb" with a chant-along chorus ("We got the guillotine / You better run") as infectious as the best Funkadelic. The accompanying video, which opens with a scarecrow-garbed Riley crucified on a basketball hoop, is an unsettling mashup of Broadway's *The Wiz*, Spike Lee's *Bamboozled* and the French Revolution.

We recently caught up with Riley to talk about the infamous album cover, the recent presidential election and the musical evolution of a revolutionary band.

***Indy:* October was a good month for politicized hip-hop, with long-awaited albums by both you and Dead Prez. In your case, I know you were busy with the Occupy movement and live shows, but what else were you doing during your six years between albums?**

Boots Riley: Let's see, I put out two Street Sweeper Social Club releases, I have four kids now, and also, you know, just gigging. It's like every business that's out there right now; you end up working a lot more for a lot less. So we have to gig, first to get the message out there about the album, the fact that it exists. And then also, we have to gig constantly just to make money to pay bills.

***Indy:* You grew up in Oakland, where the Black Panthers got their start and pretty much ended. At what point did you first hear of them?**

BR: We moved there when I was 6 and then we moved away between the ages of 9 and 12.

So no, I was into *Star Wars*, stuff like that. I mean, my father was involved in the Progressive Labor Party, but that was more when we were in Detroit. It just wasn't something that registered with me, you know? But I do remember my father coming back from fighting the Klan in Detroit with his ribs broken. I remember the bandage around his torso.

***Indy:* One of the things I remember from reading *Rules for Radicals* in college was the idea that, when people who are pushing for change establish an ongoing organization, that organization will inevitably become more concerned with perpetuating itself than with the goals it started out with. Right now, Occupy and Anonymous are both, to a large extent, decentralized organizations. Do you think that's something that can continue?**

BR: I mean, it's kind of like it just *will*. I think Occupy works because it's the left working together. I also think it has a lot of *problems* because it's the left working together.

You know, since the '60s I think the left has been good at breaking down into smaller and smaller more correct organizations. And so you have some very correct, exactly on-point organizations that are three people big. And this Occupy Wall Street movement changed all of that. You have people sitting in the same room that *hate* each other, but are working on a campaign together. So and the idea is that you can work together without having to agree on the same party line.

***Indy:* Were you at all optimistic or encouraged by the results of this election?**

BR: Do I find myself *encouraged* by it? The way I look at it, what usually happens is there'll be a mass movement that's growing — like the anti-war movement — and then it gets diverted and changed into a pro-Kerry movement, or an Obama movement, you name it. If you really want change, you have to have a radical, mass militant movement. If you have that, you can make any politician do whatever you want. If you don't have that, it doesn't matter who you elect. So it shouldn't be an either-or thing, maybe, but it is.

***Indy:* On the new album, there's obviously a lot of funk, but then there's also accordion on the title track, and a song like "Violet," which is almost chamber hip-hop …**

BR: Chamber hip-hop — does that exist?

***Indy:* No, I think you've created it.**

BR: OK.

***Indy:* Anyway, how would you say your music has evolved since you and Pam and E-Roc first started the Coup? I assume you're still responsible for the compositions and the lyrics, but has it continued to evolve into more of a band thing?**

BR: Well, it's always been live instruments from the beginning, right? The difference is that I would program the drumbeat, because I had an idea that that's what people wanted to hear. And with much of the newer stuff, I've let my other influences come in. You know, whether other people want to hear them or not.

But since '97, we've been performing with a live band, and while I'd always been the producer, I co-produced this new album with Damion Gallegos. So yeah, I think everything is a collaborative effort to a certain extent.

***Indy:* You have a track record with interesting cover images. And the scene depicted on the new one [riot cops busting into the band's living room] is something I could almost imagine happening after the coincidence between 9/11 and the original *Party Music* cover. How long was it before you started hearing from federal investigators?**

BR: I never heard from any federal investigators.

***Indy:* That's amazing to me.**

BR: It's even more amazing when you consider that the FBI was knocking on the doors of people who criticized Bush at their gym or wherever. But take it back a few years to when Clinton was in office, and he allowed wiretapping with no warrant. So although we talk about all these things that happened with the Patriot Act, that shit was already happening

I'm sure that they have a file on me, and that they had one already. And that there was nothing new they needed to know.

***Indy:* So they had you figured out?**

BR: Yeah, I'm sure they were tapping my phone already. There were artists from 40, 50 years ago that they were tapping and following because they were putting out messages. It's not like I have any conspiracy-theory idea about it. I think that they were doing their job for the capitalists, to keep tabs on people. So that's the only reason why they didn't need to question me, because they know whatever I would say on the phone is something that I would say in front of 10,000 people.

— bill@csindy.com

CAPSULE

The Coup, with Kev Choice, Pink Hawks & Koffi Togo Company, Fresh Breath Committee, Fidel Redstar

Saturday, Nov. 24, 8 p.m.

Summit Music Hall, 1902 Blake St., Denver

Tickets: $18/adv, $20/door, all-ages, sodajerkpresents.com, 303/487-0111.

AudioFile

CAPSULE
Gold Fields, with Foster
Monday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m.
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave.
Tickets: $10/adv, $12/door, all-ages; blacksheeprocks.com, 227-7625.

Reap what you sow

Australia's Gold Fields learn the value of self-reliance

By Chris Parker

It's not always easy for a young band to trust its own instincts. So when Aussie indie dance-pop quintet Gold Fields sparked industry attention shortly after the band's 2010 formation, the temptation to bow to experience proved impossible to resist.

Field reps: 'We thought if we work with these guys it will turn out alright.'

Although initially influenced by American emo bands like Brand New and Taking Back Sunday, the group soon began to embrace elements of Australia's burgeoning dance scene.

"Bands like Cut Copy, Empire of the Sun, the Presets and Van She sort of led the way," says guitarist Vin Andanar. "People we've met are really excited and have just heard of these bands in the last year, while we've been listening to them the last few years. They've definitely helped younger bands from the Australian music scene make a name for themselves."

Gold Fields went on to record a six-song demo showcasing the group's ability to marry rock guitars, racing Daft Punk-inspired rhythms, club-anthem keyboard swirls, and slick '80s new wave undertones that echo the Pet Shop Boys, Frankie Goes to Hollywood and Yello. Astralwerks — who'd previously championed electro-pop artists ranging from Melbourne's Cut Copy to Norway's Röyksopp — was impressed by the response to the group's first single, "Treehouse," which came across like a long-lost A-Ha song being reinterpreted by punk-popsters Straylight Run.

The label sent the band off to Los Angeles for six weeks to record with Mickey Petralia, whose credits include Beck, Ladytron and Peaches. After spending all but two days holed up in the studio, the group returned home unhappy with the results. It didn't help that two of the bandmembers had never been in a professional studio before, and none of them had ever worked with a producer.

Step two was to rent a mansion in Sydney, where Gold Fields spent the next several weeks writing and preparing to rerecord the album. But those sessions also proved disappointing, so it was back to the drawing board.

"That was the hardest decision, to say no to what we'd done," says Andanar. "We'd worked for almost eight months on this album and it just wasn't how we wanted."

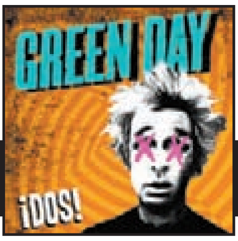
Coming full circle, the musicians returned to the home garage where they'd made their first recordings, scotched the entire idea of a producer, and went back to relying on the instincts that had gotten them attention in the first place. And so it was that eight months of frustrating effort was salvaged in just three weeks, all from the comfort of home.

"We could just go into the backyard and find pieces of wood to use as percussion," says Andanar of the laid-back atmosphere that turned out to be much more productive. "We're pretty lucky our A&R really supports us, and really supported the idea of us doing it ourselves."

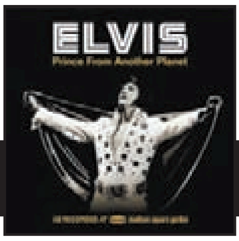
While some groups might be bitter about being sent on what in many ways turned out to be a wild-goose chase, Andanar appreciates the label's willingness to indulge the group's perfectionist streak. "We trusted in other people's experience who had been in the industry and worked on tons of records. We thought if we work with these guys it will turn out alright. But it just didn't turn out how we wanted it to, and in the end we just trusted ourselves."

— scene@csindy.com

SoundAdvice



LANA DEL REY
PARADISE



Green Day
¡Dos!
Reprise

File next to: Blink-182, Bad Religion

The second album in Green Day's 2012 trilogy, *¡Dos!* not only equals *¡Uno!,* it's actually better. The album opens the one-minute-long Everly Brothers-inspired "See You Tonight," on which Billie Joe Armstrong sings harmonies with himself accompanied by a hard-strummed acoustic guitar. It ends with "Amy," another acoustic, '50s-tinged number, this one aiming toward Dion-style street balladry. In between are 11 pure rock 'n rollers. There's the raunchy garage rocker "Fuck Time," while the fine hook-filled pop of "Ashley" nods to early Who and late Beatles. Also great are the swinging bouncy "Stray Heart," the '50s-meets-glam revved-up shuffle of "Lady Cobra," and "Nightlife," which manages to incorporate a sexy rap from Lady Cobra without a sound out of place. *¡Dos!* doesn't have any overarching themes. It's just Green Day being what it is: a fine rock 'n roll band. — ***L. Kent Wolgamott***

Lana Del Rey
Paradise
Interscope

File next to: Adele, Emili Sandé

The eight new songs on *Paradise* cover the same emotional territory as those on Lana Del Rey's debut album *Born to Die*, as she surveys the travails of love in a glamorous '60s-pop style. This new work is filled with pop-culture references, as Del Rey essays how "Springsteen is the king/ Don't you think? / I was like hell yeah/ That guy can sing." She claims that "Elvis is my daddy, Marilyn's my mother" on "American," and gets raunchy with her Pepsi on the shimmering, string-drenched "Cola." Del Rey's lower-register vocals are dusky and seductive (especially on a perfectly arranged cover of "Blue Velvet"), while they become more vulnerable as her voice moves higher. A couple songs don't fully engage, but *Paradise* is still a satisfying sophomore album from an artist who may outlive her overnight sensation status. — ***L. Kent Wolgamott***

Elvis Presley
Prince From Another Planet
RCA/Legacy

File next to: Carl Perkins, Chuck Berry

This 40th anniversary reissue chronicles Elvis Presley's first concerts in New York City, which took place in 1972 at Madison Square Garden. The two CDs and accompanying DVD showcase a mature Elvis at his very best. He makes songs like the Righteous Brother's "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling" and John Fogerty's "Proud Mary" sound entirely his own, while smartly reworking signature songs from the debut single "That's All Right" on through to the then-recent "Suspicious Minds." There's also a 20-minute mini-documentary, 20 minutes of fan-shot 8mm film (synched with newly mixed audio), and 12 minutes of a hilarious press conference in which the musician jokes with reporters and deflects personal questions until cowboy-hatted manager Col. Tom Parker pulls the plug. All in all, this is a true glimpse into another time, one which captures the magic of one of our greatest performers ever. — ***L. Kent Wolgamott***

Stargazers
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Upcoming Events

11-21	Hungry Farmer Bands Reunion
11-24	John Denver Tribute-Ted Vigil
11-25	Thin Air Jazz Big Band
11-30	Echos of the Platters/Tribute
12-1	Boogie Machine- Disco Party
12-2	Front Range Jazz Lab Big Band Holiday Show
12-7	Chuck Limbrick
12-8	Flying W Wranglers
12-12	Hazel Miller / Dotsero
12-13	Corey Smith - Country
12-14	Grant Sabin CD Release with The Haunted Windchimes
12-15	Trace Bundy - Acoustic Ninja with Josh Garrels
12-28 & 29	Elephant Revival
12-31	New Years Eve/Martini Shot
1-4	John Gorka
1-12	Susan Rissman and Tribe
1-18	Whiskey Fingers Dance Party
1-19	Nina Story and Wendy Woo
1-26	Switchback / Celtic
2-16	Yesterday- Beatles Tribute
2-23	ZOSO- Led Zeppelin Tribute

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REVERB

BY BILL FORMAN

You may recall that in last week's column, we talked about two upcoming **'Rock for Sophie' benefits**. Well, now there are four.

To backtrack just a bit, Sophie is the 3-year-old daughter of **LastLeaf Custom Print & Design's Mathias Valdez**, who does all those timeless-looking posters for the **Haunted Windchimes** and the rest of the **Blank Tape Records** crew. After Sophie was diagnosed with childhood leukemia last month, friends of the family began organizing two benefit shows, which will be held at **Phil's Radiator** in Pueblo this coming Saturday and at the **Black Sheep** the following Friday (Nov. 30).

Bryan Oller

Nobodys home: JJ's band will kick off a two-night cancer benefit this Friday and Saturday at the Triple Nickel.

So this past weekend, upon hearing of Sophie's plight, **JJ Grueter** decided to make her the recipient of proceeds from the two-night cancer benefit *he's* hosting at the **Triple Nickel** this coming Friday and Saturday. After losing his mother, sister and older brother to the disease, JJ had already begun donating $100 every month to cancer research foundations, while a benefit he held at his club last year raised $4,800 for the cause.

"Every year, for as long as I own the bar and people want to get together, I really would like to do this and find somebody who needs it," says JJ. "You know, it's five bucks [per night] to see these bands — and we're gonna drink — it's what we all do every weekend anyways! We're just all gonna do it on *one* weekend, right here, and we're gonna help somebody out."

Actually, these shows would make an excellent Thanksgiving weekend choice even if they weren't for a cause. Friday's Triple Nickel lineup features local hip-hop heroes **Fidel Redstar**, California pop-punks **City Mouse**, El Toro de la Muerte offshoot **Rifle,** and JJ's own punk band the **Nobodys**.

Saturday, look for **El Toro** themselves, **Mark Wilkins**, the **Jack Trades** (first show in a year and a half), and JJ's *other* band **Drag the River**. The evening will close with an unannounced — except by me, ha! — reprise of **Mike Stevens** and friends' much-acclaimed **David Lee Roth** tribute from the recent **Monsters of Mock** Halloween shows.

Each lineup represents a broad cross-section of musical genres, as befits a concern that directly or indirectly affects us all. In fact, this'll be the first time the Nobodys and Fidel Redstar have seen each other perform, let alone shared the same stage, even though JJ and Fidel leader **Ahmad Mitchell** have been buddies for years.

"I love him, and we hang out all the time, but we don't go to each other's shows," admits JJ. "You know, hip-hop is just not my thing. And he don't come see the Nobodys — I mean, we're a dirty, shitty punk rock band, you know what I mean?"

But as the two friends discovered last month while talking about the benefit, blood is thicker than genres. "He just pulled me aside and he was like, 'You know, I lost my mom a few years ago to cancer.' And so we're talking and it's like two grown men in the corner of my bar just fucking bawling. And he's like, 'I would love to have something to do with it.' And I'm all, 'You're on the same night as me.'"

> **'It's like two grown men in the corner of my bar just fucking bawling.'**

After Friday's show, Fidel Redstar will head up to Denver's **Summit Music Hall** to open for the **Coup**, whom I happened to interview on p. 40 of this issue. And don't miss drum 'n bass phenom **Dieselboy** — who was interviewed in our last issue — when he plays tonight at the grand opening of the **Rawkus** nightclub right here in the Springs.

Also, as long as we're talking cultural difference, let's send an all-too-rare shout-out to the town of Manitou. As much as I love Wiccans and Trustafarians, what I like best about the runner-up Berkeley of the Front Range is that it has two good venues literally within crawling distance of each other. Which means that, last Friday, I was able to take in the conscious hip-hop of the **Wandering Monks** and **Che Bong** at the **Ancient Mariner**, then slip out between sets to catch the more singer-songwriterly strains of **Chauncy Crandall** and *Indy* colleague **David Jeffrey** at **Kinfolks**.

Both shows were great, but bonus points to the latter for the several dogs in attendance, one of whom kept chasing his tail, whirling around like a Grateful Dead fan.

Until next week, then, have a great holiday, stay safe, and, as my predecessor would no doubt say, smell you later.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, NOV. 21, THROUGH TUESDAY, NOV. 27

Wednesday 11/21

Club Q, *Open Mic Night,* 10 p.m.

Frankie's, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, *Ceol Ceili (world),* 8 p.m.

Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz),* 7 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *West Side Wednesdays, with Brian Parton (Americana),* 7 p.m.

Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic),* 7 p.m.

Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.

Rawkus, *Dieselboy, DJ Swamp, Lea Luna (hip-hop),* 7:30 p.m., $10-$20.

Ritz, *DJ Serge (dance),* 9 p.m.

SouthSide Johnny's, *Arch Hooks (R&B),* 8:30 p.m.

Stargazers, *Hungry Farmer 33rd Musician's Reunion (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., please bring two items for Care and Share.

Thirsty Parrot, *Colorado Springs Big Jazz Band (jazz),* 6 p.m.

Time Out, *West Side Rhythm Kings (blues),* 8 p.m.

Townhouse, *The Bar Stars (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.

Twisted Knickers, *Bluegrass Jam with Banjo Bill (bluegrass),* 7 p.m.

Zodiac, *'80s Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance),* 9 p.m.

Thursday 11/22

Jack Quinn's, *Brian Clancy (world),* 7:30 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *Throwback Thursday (dance),* 8 p.m., *Model Citisinz (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.

Rico's, *John Wise & Susan Rissman (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.

Ritz, *Thanksgiving Party, with DJ Ron Perry (dance),* 8 p.m.

Friday 11/23

Adam's, *Bud Ford (acoustic),* 9 a.m.

Back East, *Suga Bear & the Show Time Band (R&B),* 8:30 p.m.

Benny's, *Roots and Rhythm (R&B),* 8 p.m.

Black Forest Community Center, *TAARKA (world),* 7 p.m., $4-$7.

Black Sheep, *Why They Fight, Never So Right, The Ragetones (rock/pop),* 7:30 p.m., $5.

Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz),* 7 p.m.

Cleats, *Fishtank Piranhas (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.

Cucuru, *Rico Southee (jazz),* 8 p.m.

Fujiyama, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world),* 7 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, *DJ Rob G (dance),* 10 p.m.

Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B),* 9 p.m.

Kinfolks, *Brian Parton (Americana),* 8 p.m.

Margarita at PineCreek, *The Mitguards (folk),* 6:30 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *Faded Friday (dance),* 8 p.m., *The Tels (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.

Motif, *Brad Bietry Trio (jazz),* 7:45 p.m.

Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with*

VENUE DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430

Back East Bar & Grill, 9475 Briar Village Point, 264-6161

Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309

Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Road, 528-6119

Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625

Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979

Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267

Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879

Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900

Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881

Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167

Holy Cow Pub & Grill, 5885 Stetson Hills Blvd., 465-1704

Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766

Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128

Kinfolks Mountain Shop, 950 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-4433

Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667

Marika's Coffeehouse, 739 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-4438

Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583

Motif, 2432 Cucharras St., 635-5635

Pale Horse Bar and Lounge, 204 N. Union Blvd., 465-2005

Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655

Penrose Room at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5773

Piano Warehouse, 120 W. Cucharras St., 578-8668

Pikes Peak Brewing Co., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Drive, 208-4098

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

Lila Mori (jazz), 6:30 p.m.

Piano Warehouse, *Steve Barta Trio (jazz),* 7:30 p.m., $25.

Red Martini, *Barry Laluna (jazz),* 8 p.m.

Rico's, *Wayne Wilkinson Jazz (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.

Sky Box Lounge, *Jeff "Fitty" Smith (acoustic),* 7 p.m.

Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.

SouthSide Johnny's, *Arch Hooks (R&B),* 9 p.m.

Steaksmith, *Molly Boyles (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.

Thirsty Parrot, *DJ Karson with a "K" (dance),* 8 p.m., *Cirque Du DeeJay (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Townhouse, *Hillbilly Luv Gawds (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.

Triple Nickel, *Cancer Benefit, feat. The Nobodys, Rifle, City Mouse, Fidel Redstar (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.

Wyatt's, *The Flipsides (blues),* 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 11/24

Back East, *Suga Bear & the Show Time Band (R&B),* 8:30 p.m.

Benny's, *Big Sky (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.

Black Sheep, *Blood on the Dance Floor, Jeffree Star (dance)*, 7 p.m., $15-$17.

Cleats, *Fishtank Piranhas (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.

Crystola Roadhouse, *Jim Adam and John Stilwagen (blues),* 8 p.m.

Cucuru, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world),* 7 p.m.

Fujiyama, *DJ Ron Perry (jazz),* 6 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, *Redraw the Farm (indie),* 9:30 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *DJ Tony G (dance),* 8 p.m., *Barnyard Stompers (country)*, 9 p.m.

Motif, *Julie Bradley and Friends (jazz),* 7:45 p.m.

Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.

Pikes Peak Brewing Co., *The J. Miller Band (Americana),* 7 p.m.

Rawkus, *Jesse James Outlaw Whiskey Model Search feat. Isaac James Band (rock/pop),* 7 p.m.

Rico's, *New Vintage Jazz Trio (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.

Ritz, *DJ Serge (dance),* 9 p.m.

Silver Tongue Devil, *Kris Lager Band (indie),* 8 p.m.

Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.

SouthSide Johnny's, *Arch Hooks (R&B),* 9 p.m.

Stargazers, *John Denver Tribute feat. Ted Vigil (country),* 8 p.m., $15-$20.

Steaksmith, *Brad Eastin Trio (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.

Townhouse, *The Bar Stars (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.

Triple Nickel, *Cancer Benefit, feat. El Toro de la Muerte, Drag the River, Jack Trades, Mark Wilkins (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m., $5.

Union Station, *We Sold Our Souls, a tribute to Black Sabbath and Ozzy Osbourne (metal)*, 8 p.m.

V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.

Sunday 11/25

Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world),* 3 p.m.

Retired Enlisted Association, *Blues Jam with the Tracy Quinn Band (rock/pop),* 3 p.m.

Silver Tongue Devil, *Kris Lager Band (indie),* 8 p.m.

Stargazers, *Thin Air Jazz (jazz),* 6 p.m., $4-$8.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.

Tony's, *Sunday Shenanigans, with NateStarr and TaylorLee (dance),* 9:30 p.m.

Zodiac, *Nerd Nite, hosted by Deanoptimus (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Monday 11/26

Black Sheep, *Gold Fields (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $10-$12.

Crystola Roadhouse, *Rosalie and Mike (rock/pop),* 5 p.m.

Marika's, *The South Path Ramblers (rock/pop),* 6:30 p.m.

Shovelhead, *Shovelhead Blues Jam (blues),* 7 p.m.

Shuga's, *Swelter and Burn, Strange Relics* (indie), 9 p.m.

Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone,* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 11/27

Adam's, *Wayne Hammerstadt (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *John Austin (Americana),* 7 p.m.

Rudiments, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 7 p.m.

Thirsty's, *Jam Night (acoustic),* 8 p.m.

Townhouse, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 9 p.m.

Zodiac, *Goth Nite with DJ Johnny Coffin (dance),* 9 p.m.

Blood on the Dance Floor headlines the Black Sheep this coming Saturday.

BigGigs

Blood on the Dance Floor, Jeffree Star, Black Sheep, Nov. 24 • **Gold Fields**, Black Sheep, Nov. 26 • **The Faceless**, Black Sheep, Nov. 28 • **Echos of the Platters**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Nov. 30 • ***Brulé: Red Nativity***, Pikes Peak Center, Dec. 1 • **Mac Lethal**, Black Sheep, Dec. 1 • **Never Shout Never**, Black Sheep, Dec. 7 • **NOFX**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 7 • **John Tesh**, USAFA's Arnold Hall, Dec. 7 • **40 oz. to Freedom**, Black Sheep, Dec. 8 • **Eoto**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 8 • **Lamb of God**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 10 • **Corey Smith**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 13 • **Texas Hippie Coalition**, Black Sheep, Dec. 14 • **"The Acoustic Ninja" Trace Bundy & Josh Garrels**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 15 • **Craig Morgan & Phil Vassar**, Pikes Peak Center, Dec. 15 • **Boys Noize Live**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 18 • **Clutch, Texas Hippie Coalition**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 21 • **The Beach Boys**, Pikes Peak Center, Dec. 28 • **Elephant Revival**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 28-29 • **STS9**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 29-31 • **John Gorka**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 4 • **Blackberry Smoke**, Summit Music Hall, Denver, Jan. 19 • **Switchback**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 26 • **Carrie Underwood**, World Arena, Feb. 13 • **Savoy**, Boulder Theater, Boulder, Feb. 23

Rasta King Seafood Bar and Grill, 675 S. Circle Drive, 344-4447

Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000

Red Martini, 25 N. Tejon St., 634-3522

Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927

Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549

Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484

Rudiments Café, 5863 Palmer Park Blvd., 434-5999

Shovelhead Saloon, 4130 U.S. Hwy. 85, 392-2665

Shuga's, 702 S. Cascade Ave., 328-1412

The Silver Tongue Devil Saloon, 10530 Ute Pass Ave., Green Mountain Falls, 684-2555

The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815

Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222

SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487

Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200

Steaksmith, 3802 Maizeland Road, 596-9300

Tavern at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5772

Thirsty Parrot, 32 S. Tejon St., 884-1094

Thirsty's Tavern, 2028 Sheldon Ave., 444-8515

Time Out Sports Lounge and Deli, 3721 Drennan Road, 390-7257

Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566

Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085

Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555

Twisted Knickers Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 633-1400

Union Station, 2419 N. Union Blvd., 227-7168

V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599

Wyatt's Pub & Grill, 806 Village Center Drive, 598-4100

Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

VOTED BEST VENUE IN THE SPRINGS!
THE BLACK SHEEP
2106 E. PLATTE AVE. CO SPRINGS

Fri, Nov. 23rd - 7:30pm
WHY THEY FIGHT
FEATURING: WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT, NEVER SO RIGHT, THE RAGETONES

Sat, Nov. 24th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY INDEPENDENT RECORDS
BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR
FEATURING: JEFFREE STAR, DAVEY SUICIDE, CONSIDER ME DEAD

Mon, Nov. 26th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
GOLD FIELDS
FEATURING: FOSTER, GET ALONG

Wed, Nov. 28th - 7:00pm
THE FACELESS
FEATURING: REVOCATION, THE HAARP MACHINE, OMNYN, TRY REDEMPTION

Fri, Nov. 30th - 7:30pm
ROCK FOR SOPHIE! A BENEFIT FOR SOPHIE VALDEZ
FEATURING: MALAKAI, VITAL MALICE, INELEMENTS, BRIDGES, CULL THE HERD

Sat, Dec. 1st - 8:00pm
PRESENTED BY INDEPENDENT RECORDS
MAC LETHAL
FEAT: SPLYT, CON AND BOOGER, BLACK DAY

Fri, Dec. 7th - 6:30pm
NEVER SHOUT NEVER
FEAT: WILLIAM BECKETT (OF THE ACADEMY IS), ANARBOR, BLEACH BLONDE

Sat, Dec. 8th - 8:00pm
40oz TO FREEDOM
FEATURING: SPECIAL GUESTS

Sun, Dec. 9th - 8:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
RXP ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS BASH FEATURING ZZ WARD
FEAT: A SILENT FILM, YELLOW RED SPARKS, CAPITAL CITIES

Fri, Dec. 14 - 8:00pm
PRESENTED BY 94.3 KILO
TEXAS HIPPIE COALITION
FEAT: HILLBILLY HERALD, PAIN MACHINE

Sat, Dec. 15th - 8:00pm
DESERT NOISES
FEATURING: THE GREAT HOTEL FIRE, BRIDGES WILL BREAK, KNIGHT IN COLORS

Fri, Dec. 21st - 8:00pm
KRIZZ KALIKO
FEATURING: GRITTY MUSICK, SLO PAIN, 17 ENTS, HEX RATED

UPCOMING EVENTS
DEC 22 - BLACK PEGASUS
JAN 5 - FATHER JOHN MISTY
JAN 18 - REVEREND HORTON HEAT
JAN 23 - TRIBAL SEEDS
JAN 28 - THE TOASTERS
JAN 30 - THE OVERSEER, FIT FOR A KING
FEB 2 - KRADDY
FEB 7 - THE GROWLERS

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Fri Nov 23 *vs* #3 New Hampshire | Sat Nov 24 *vs* Yale

$7.50 Tickets!

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— SPECIAL TICKET PROMOTION AT THE WORLD ARENA BOX OFFICE —

CARE AND SHARE

CC Tiger Care and Share Food Drive over Thanksgiving weekend! For each non-perishable food item you donate to the World Arena Box Office you can purchase $7.50 tickets to the CC games vs. New Hampshire and Yale!

2012-13 CC HOCKEY UPCOMING HOME GAMES

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
FRI	NOV 23	#3 NEW HAMPSHIRE	7:30 PM
SAT	NOV 24	YALE	7 PM
FRI/SAT	NOV 30/DEC 1	#7 NORTH DAKOTA	7:30/7 PM
FRI/SAT	DEC 7/8	#4 MINNESOTA	7:30/7 PM
FRI/SAT	JAN 18/19	MINNESOTA DULUTH	7:30/7 PM
SAT	FEB 9	#2 DENVER	7 PM

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Listings

Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

blackFriday@blacKiowa, a special Black Friday art show featuring photography by local artist Spika, with live music by Foster. The show will be preceded by the artist performing in Acacia Park, where he will hand out photos to passersby. Fri., Nov. 23, 7 p.m. The blacKiowa Gallery, 745 E. Kiowa St., 471-4215.

ArtEvents

"The Art of Sellable Art: A Workshop," a class on how to attend to the business side of being an artist, from building a customer base to connecting with individual buyers. Thurs., Nov. 29, 6 p.m. $55. Mountain Living Studio, 741 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-0225, mountainlivingstudio.com.

Art on the Streets, a year-long exhibit of sculpture vetted by local art patrons Jim Raughton and Kathy Loo. The 12 pieces are done by artists from Colorado and around the country. Go online for a map. Through next summer. Downtown, downtown80903.com.

Big Picture Discussion Group, join others to talk about art and spirituality. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Concrete Couch seeks volunteers to help the nonprofit craft two mosaic panels at Will Rogers Elementary School. Wednesdays, Thursdays, 8-10 a.m.; through Dec. 5. 110 S. Circle Drive, 439-6623, joel@concretecouch.org, d11.org/rogers.

New Docent Coffee, a chance to bring art to life for visitors at the FAC. Learn about the volunteer docent program at this informational coffee hour. Call or e-mail to RSVP. Tues., Nov. 27, 10 a.m. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 331-8891, eirei@comcast.net, csfineartscenter.org.

Sheppard Art Institute classes, offering classes on topics such as: oil, watercolor and acrylic painting, Asian painting techniques, beginning drawing and more. First Presbyterian Church, 219 E. Bijou St., 282-2706, sheppardartinstitute.org.

Wine and Art Saturdays, a weekly event for appreciation of creative endeavors, both high-culture and viticulture. Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. Hayden Hays Broadmoor Galleries, 1 Lake Circle, 577-5744, haydenhaysgallery.com.

ArtExhibits

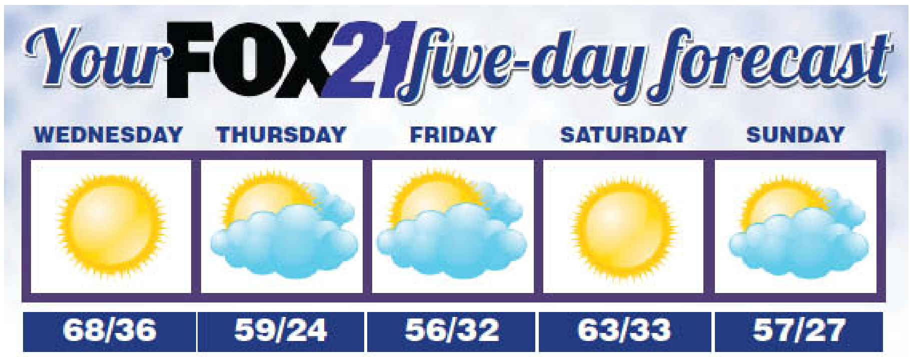
Academy Frame Company, 7620 N. Academy Blvd., 265-6694, academyframeco.com. *Under the Influence*, an exhibition of the watercolor and mixed-media work of Carol Naylor, Gayle Higgins and Jan Hunt-Dawson. Through Dec. 31.

Arati Artists Gallery, 2425 W. Colorado Ave., 323-3935, deed@aurawoods.com, aurawoods.com. *A Stroke of Color*, a collection of light-filled watercolor paintings from Larry Haught and Lorraine Watry. Through Nov. 29.

The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *Orpheus and Other Myths — Recent Collages by Dave Armstrong*, a series of "surreal collages" from Armstrong's forthcoming book based on the story of Orpheus, "along with some detours into mythology and other hard-to-believe stuff." Through Dec. 2.

Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *The Body Politic*, a juried, all-media exhibit on individual views of politics today. Through Nov. 25. *Political Perspectives*, a solo show by photographer Bill Young that "interprets the current atmosphere in our blue and red world." Through Nov. 25. *Political Streets*, a showcase of work by selected artists asked to create work they feel captures what the average person feels about politics today. Through Nov. 25. *Handmade Holiday*, a show and sale of hand-crafted artwork and crafts from locals, with live music, warm beverages and cookies and other holiday entertainment. Saturdays, Sundays; through Dec. 25.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *A Mural in the Making*, a look at the process — through drawings, pictures, video and more — that two artists, Eric Bransby and Trevor Thomas, went through to create the museum's new mural. Through Jan. 6. *Floyd D. Tunson: Son of Pop*, a career-spanning exhibition of the works of long-



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COLORADO SPRINGS PHILHARMONIC

time Palmer High School art instructor, and celebrated artist, Floyd Tunson. Through Jan. 20.

Cottonwood on Tejon, 214½ N. Tejon St., cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *Holiday Boutique*, an art show and sale, featuring pieces from Colorado artists, all under $100.

GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-3504, galleryuccs.org. *Jay Shinn: Illuminated*, a solo show by Shinn, who works with paint, metal, light and neon to create works that "defy our notions of space and perception." Through Dec. 14.

GOCA 1420 at UCCS, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 255-3567, galleryuccs.org. *Rain Machine: Eric Tillinghast*, a site-specific, water-centric installation that will nearly fill the 2,800-square-foot gallery. Through Dec. 6.

Kreuser Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Holiday Art Market*, a sale featuring art work from local artists like Carole Reece, Marie David, Dana Long, Tim Davis, Randall Barbera, Abigail Kreuser and others. Through Nov. 30.

Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com. *Catherine Porter-Brown and Jeff Brown*, a show by this couple, who depict everyday objects — using found objects for Brown, and oil paint for Porter-Brown — in their work to explore deeper, meditative themes. Through Nov. 30.

Poor Richard's Bookstore, 320 N. Tejon St., 578-0012, poorrichardsdowntown.com. *Photos by Marshall Griffith*, an exhibition with themes that will change with the months: "Vistas and Views" in November; and "Other Scenes and Things" in December. Through Jan. 2.

Pueblo Art Guild Gallery, 1500 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/543-2455, puebloartguild.com. *Annual Photography Show*, an exhibition from the Southern Colorado Photography Society and Pueblo Art Guild. Through Dec. 12. Free.

Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org. *Own Your Own Art Show & Sale*, Sangre's annual art bonanza, with walls filled top to bottom with reasonably priced artwork for the holidays. Through Dec. 29.

Soirée, 1003 S. Tejon St., 633-8313, coloradospringsvenue.com. *Momentum*, a solo show of new abstract paintings focused on meditative spaces, as well as a series "inspired by walking meditation labyrinths." Through Dec. 31.

S.P.Q.R., 17 B E. Bijou St., 633-4240. *Betty Ross and Holly Conlon*, featuring work based on travels — *Travel and Paint* — by Ross, and art inspired by ideas of nature and magic for Conlon's *Little Mysteries*. Through Nov. 30.

Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200, stargazerstheatre.com. *Not Your Grandma's Quilts*, an exhibition by Colorado Springs Fiber Artists, a collective whose work pushes the boundaries of traditional textile art in new and exciting directions. Nov. 24 to Jan. 15.

Steel City Art Works, 216 S. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/542-6838, steelcityart.com. *November Featured Artists*, an exhibition of abstract paintings from Lisa Bailey and Cheryl Scott, and acrylic landscapes from Bonnie Quillen. Through Nov. 30.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org. *Member Artists Exhibition*. Through Dec. 8.

Verve, 2513½ W. Colorado Ave., 351-7030. *Theresa Sobota: Artistic Aura*, mixed media work. Through Nov. 30.

Auditions&Entries

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center seeks submissions of new scripts for its April program, *Rough Writers: A New Play Fest*. *Rough Writers* will feature new scripts based on three works of art in the museum. After the Fest, the winning play will be staged during the FAC Theatre Company's 2013-2014 season. More information available online. Submissions due: Feb. 14. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, roughwriters@csfineartscenter.org, csfineartscenter.org.

Forestgate Theatre is now casting roles for maturing adults, young adults, teens and children above 8 for an April production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Visit website for details and to sign up for audition times. Tues., Nov. 27; Thurs., Nov. 29; and Sat., Dec. 1. Forestgate Theatre, 970 Northgate Blvd., 216-3192, forestgatetheatre.org.

Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District seeks community members eager to preserve and promote Pikes Peak Library District by serving on the board of directors. Go online for more info and to download the application. 531-6333 ext. 1008, friendsppld.org.

The Modbo seeks artwork for its upcoming *Fifth Annual Small Works Show*. All art must be under 24 inches in each dimension, including the frame. They must also be wired and ready to hang. Intake will be held Sat., Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. $3 fee. Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo@gmail.com, themodbo.wordpress.com.

The Women's Community Leadership Initiative seeks applicants for its 2013 professional development program which empowers women of modest means and diverse backgrounds through leadership training. The program is composed of 12 free, bi-weekly sessions, with dinner and childcare vouchers provided. Call or visit website for application materials; deadline is Nov. 23. 632-2618, LeadershipPikesPeak.org.

Clubs&Organizations

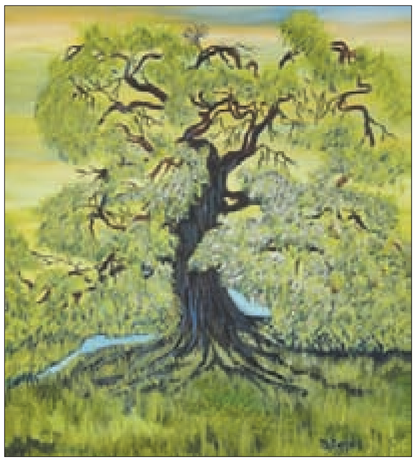
Black Cat Books' Knitting Group, a weekly celebration of yarn and stitchery, now at Black Cat Books' new location in the BAC. E-mail RSVP requested. Sundays, 4-6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, Natalie@BlackCatBooks.com, thebac.org.

Colorado Native Club, a gathering for native Coloradans over a potluck dinner with a presentation on state history and culture. Fourth Thursday of every month (rescheduled to third Thursday to not conflict with holidays), 5:45-7:30 p.m. Free, $10 per year to join. Inn at Garden Plaza, 2520 International Circle, 632-6806, innatgardenplaza.com.

Colorado Springs Creative Photography Group, a weekly meet-up of a photography group "that is social, educational and community based. We welcome members of all skill levels." Seeking new members for the main group, and a separate spinoff for teens. See website for details. 232-5697, meetup.com/creative-photography.

Colorado Springs Scrabble Club, a club for Scrabble players of all abilities and experience levels. Bring equipment if you have it. Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Jason's Deli, 7455 N. Academy Blvd., 332-5141, mem@rialto.org, jasonsdeli.com.

Colorado Springs Toastmasters, Mondays, 6 p.m. Maggie Mae's Restaurant & Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 425-6004, reports.toastmasters.org/findaclub/zoomclub.cfm?clubNumber=555.



PICK **Phantom Canyon Brewing Co.,** 2 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 635-2800, phantomcanyon.com. *Work by Shirley Cannon*. Through Feb. 1.

Colorado Vegetarian Group, open to anyone interested in a vegetarian or vegan dietary lifestyle. Visit the website or contact coloradospringsveg@yahoo.com for meetings and other details. vegetarian.meetup.com/534.

Debtors Anonymous, weekly 12-step meetings for those struggling with debt, overspending and/or underearning. First Lutheran Church, 1515 N. Cascade Ave., 641-2979, debtorsanonymous.org.

Drinking Liberally, a discussion and drink group open to the "99%, 47% and any empty chairs." Fourth Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. Free. Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 330-6993, livingliberally.org/drinking.

Knitwits & Hookers, a knitting and crochet group where all levels of experience are welcome; contact for meeting details, as they change weekly. Mondays. Free. ravelry.com.

MS Support Groups, offering five support groups around the region for those living with MS and their caregivers. For locations and information call 633-4603. Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Southern Colorado, 1322 N. Academy Blvd., #119, 633-4603, msasoco.org.

Networking Groups, Job Search Group meets Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon. 50+ Job Seekers

PICK **I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College,** Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6066, theideaspace.com. *Eiko & Koma: Residue*, an installation created by this legendary Japanese dancing duo, who will present sculpture, video and sound works to "explore ideas of time and sensory experience." Nov. 27 to Dec. 18. Reception and IDEA Cabaret Conversation with Eiko, Tues., Nov. 27, 4:30 p.m.

Group meets Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Veterans Networking Group meets the first and second Thursday of the month, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Free. Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, 636-0000, dhs.elpasoco.com.

No-Nuts Moms Group of Colorado Springs, a peanut- and tree-nut-free playgroup for all ages, who can participate in indoor and outdoor play dates. Contact the group for specific times and dates. Free. tinyurl.com/nonutsmoms.

Photography Classes and Group, offering photography and Photoshop classes at various locations around town. Visit 3peaksphoto.com/classes.html for a schedule. A photography group is also open to new members of all skill levels. Visit meetup.com/The-Colorado-Photography-Learning-Group for more information. 260-6637.

Pikes Peak Amputee Connection Monthly Support Group Meeting, meet others with limb loss for peer support, education, recreational resources and more. Third Wednesday of every month, 5-6:30 p.m. TGI Friday's, 7061 Commerce Center Drive, 599-4135, ppaccs.com.

Pikes Peak Jugglers, informal gatherings open to all ages and skill levels. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. an informal group of jugglers ranging in skill from beginners to pros. Non-members are welcome. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Downtown YMCA, 207 N. Nevada Ave., 477-9978, ppymca.org.

Pikes Peak New Horizons Band, a band organization for adults 40 and up who would like to continue to play musical instruments. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:15-11:15 a.m. Nazarene Bible College, 1111 Academy Park Loop, 598-2373, ppiom.org.

Pikes Peak Over the Hill Gang, a club for people 50 and over who want to ski, bike, go to wine tastings, theater, monthly potlucks and other activities. Visit the website for more. ppothg.com.

WINGS, offering therapist-facilitated support groups for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse in which survivors are believed and accepted. A women's group is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30. 800/373-8671, wingsfound.org.

Comedy&Improv

Spencer James, Nov. 23-24. $2-$10, two-item minimum. Loonee's Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 591-0707, loonees.com.

Concerts

Friends House Concert, Cheryl Wheeler, Sun., Dec. 9, 7 p.m. ($30). Payment should be checks made out to Friends House Concerts. houseconcerts.org.

The Nutcracker, the holiday classic returns, with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, Ballet Idaho and local dancers. Josep Caballé-Domenech conducting. Fri., Nov. 23, 7 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 24, 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sun., Nov. 25, 2 p.m. $29 and up. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, csphilharmonic.org.

PPCC Jazz Night, the "Concerts in the Theatre" series continues with this special jazz and percussion performance. No entry fee, but donations for the PPCC Pantry will be gladly accepted. Tues., Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m. PPCC Centennial Theatre, 5675 S. Academy Blvd., 502-3200, ppcc.edu.

***Requiem* by Gabriel Faure,** a special edition of PPCC's "Concerts in the Theatre" series featuring the PPCC Singers and Select Ensemble as well as the PPCC Chamber Orchestra for Faure's *Requiem*. Mon., Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m. PPCC Centennial Theatre, 5675 S. Academy Blvd., 502-3200, ppcc.edu.

DanceParties&Classes

CommuniDance, a free-form dance group. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, movementartscs.com.

Country-Western Dance Party, easy line dances, cowboy cha-chas, two-steps and square dances with the help of instructors. No partner or experience required. Come at 7 p.m. for new-dancer instructions. Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $1-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

Scottish Country Dance, held on the lower level. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. $5, first class free. International Dance Club, 2422 Busch Ave., 310-1784, internationaldanceclub.org.

Swing in the Springs, beginner and intermediate swing dance classes covering a variety of styles, followed by a free East Coast Swing class and a DJed dance. Casual dress, but no street shoes. Sundays, 7:30-10 p.m. $6. VFW Hall, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 210-4697, swinginthesprings.com.

GetInvolved

Holiday Mail for Heroes, a chance for everyone to say thanks and send encouragement to soldiers away from home for the holidays by sending cards to P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456. Sponsored by the American Red Cross; see website for instructions. Through Dec. 7. redcross.org/holidaymail.

Marian House Soup Kitchen seeks extra donations for holiday food boxes to be distributed to needy families this Thanksgiving, including more than 500 turkeys. Call for full list of needs and drop-off instructions. Through Nov. 22. Marian House, 14 W. Bijou St., 866-6443, ccharitiescc.org.

The Mountain Post's Santa's Workshop seeks new, unwrapped toys to be later to kids on Fort Carson. Dropoff locations are at UMB Bank, 5 Star Bank, Peterson AFB Central Bank & Trust and other locations. Through Dec. 1. 704-9120, mtnpostsantsworkshop@gmail.com.

OneMain Financial seeks new, unwrapped toys for its annual Toys for Tots drive. Donors can drop off their contributions at the OneMain Financial branch (1736 W. Uintah St.) and receive a thank-you gift while supplies last. Through Nov. 30. 471-9179.

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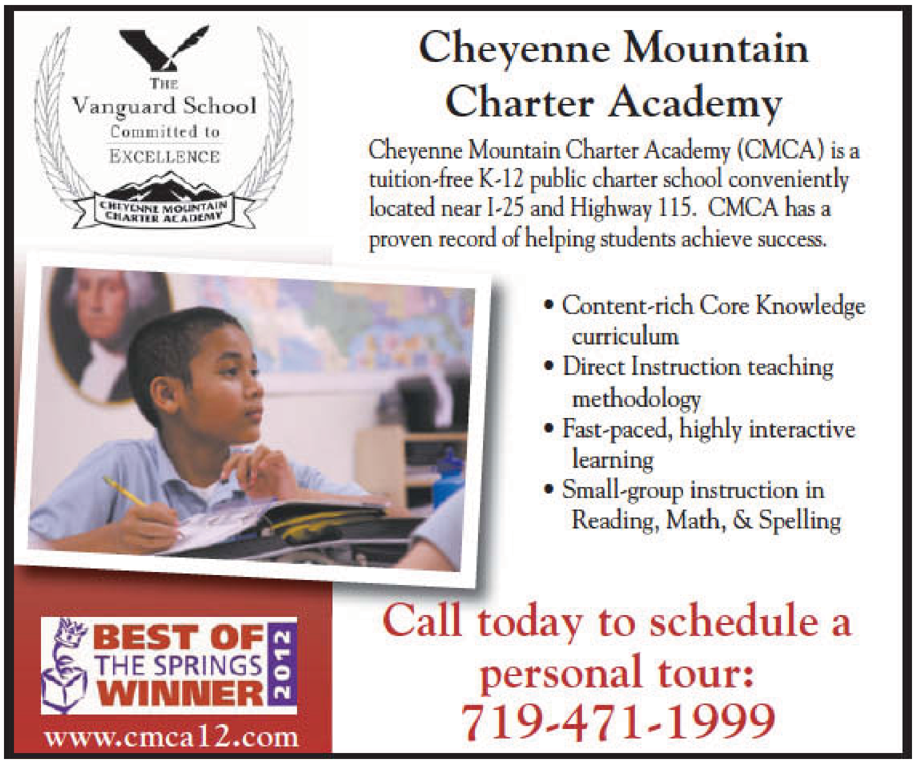

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GLBQTA Yoga, exercise in a safe and empowering environment friendly toward beginners. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Donations welcome. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st St., 304-9130, info@yogajuan.com.

Men's and Women's Grief Support Groups, open to anyone who has lost a loved one. For information on dates and times, call 573-4166. Odyssey Hospice, 5526 N. Academy Blvd. #108, 573-4166, odsyhealth.com/site.asp?id=12.

PTSD Peer-Led Support Group, a support group for the spouses or significant others of veterans or current military personnel suffering with PTSD. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Veterans' Affairs Clinic, 25 N. Spruce St., #207, 685-1965.

PTSD Support Group, for soldiers experiencing nightmares, flashbacks, insomnia, irritability, and/or hyper-vigilance. Meet with other soldiers who are experiencing the same symptoms. Facilitated by licensed therapist. Confidential. Covered by Tricare. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Soldier Life Center, 1767 S. Eighth St., #100, 471-0800, soldierlifecenter.com.

Red Mountain Yoga, a class that promises to warm and energize you; all levels welcome. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 338-3535, facebook.com/redmountainyoga.

Rockies Counseling Center Therapy, offering weekly support groups covering grief and loss, Love and Logic parenting and a Dialectic Behavioral Therapy Skills Group. Call for more info and to register. University of the Rockies, 555 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 442-0606, rockies.edu.

Yoga for People Living with HIV/AIDS, open to friends as well. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. free. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st St., 304-9130.

Yoga for Special Needs, Tuesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. Yoga Journeys Studio, 709 N. Nevada Ave., #201, 375-1922, pkomarow@comcast.net.

Yoga for Women in Recovery, a friendly yoga class for all levels of yoga and those in 12-step programs. Please bring "water, a towel, a mat, a smile and an open heart." Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. $5 donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 686-8848, flowinghopeyoga.org.

PICK **Range Gallery,** 2428 W. Colorado Ave., 685-1201, rangegallery.com. *Western Twist*, images of the "modern west" (barbed wire and concrete) from Kathleen McFadden. Through Dec. 7.

Holiday

15th Annual Holiday Headframe Lighting, a true frontier holiday tradition featuring the 1890s-vintage headframes of the mines around Cripple Creek and Victor all lit up now through New Year's. Take a self-guided tour or visit either of the historic towns for a variety of seasonal activities — visit the website for tour map or e-mail for more information. Weekend nights only, weather permitting. Nov. 23 to Dec. 31. 689-2675, stcfg@victorcolorado.com, victorcolorado.com.

Holiday Gift Bazaar, a chance to do your holiday shopping while supporting local merchants, artists, and crafters. Special photo ops with both Santa and the 501st Star Wars Stormtroopers. Bring stuffed animals or winter clothing to donate and be entered in a special prize drawing. Sun., Nov. 25, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., 581-9253, facebook.com.

Illumination, a holiday lights spectacular featuring ice carving, yummy treats, kids' activities and the Sand Creek High School marching band. Sat., Nov. 24, 4:30 p.m. First & Main Town Center, Powers Boulevard between Constitution Avenue and North Carefree Circle, 593-2632, firstandmaintowncenter.com.

Mountain Arts Holiday Show, an art market featuring a diverse array of pieces, from inexpensive accents to full-scale works in a variety of media, plus live music and refreshments. Sat., Nov. 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-5284, touchofpine@hughes.net.

Thanksgiving Wetland Walk, a family walk with a naturalist. Reservations required. Sat., Nov. 24, 9:30 a.m. $3-$4. Fountain Creek Nature Center, 320 Peppergrass Lane, Fountain, 520-6745, elpasocountyparks.com.

YMCA Turkey Trot 5K Race, a chance to have fun while helping the less fortunate this Thanksgiving Day. All funds raised through the race will help support YMCA programs that offer memberships and services to low-income families. Thurs., Nov. 22, 9-10:30 a.m. Briargate YMCA, 4025 Family Place, 495-5107, ppymca.org/turkeytrot.

Yule Love It Downtown, a holiday art and shopping crawl through Pueblo's Creative Corridor. Features live music, Riverwalk Boat Rides and painting and photography demonstrations as well as the work of local artists and artisans. Visit website for full list of events. Fridays, 5-8 p.m. and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.; through Dec. 22. Downtown Pueblo, 719/242-6652, pueblopag.org.

Kids&Family

Colorado Springs Indian Center events, offering weekly events such as family arts and crafts nights on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m., drum practices Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and more. Colorado Springs Indian Center, 701 N. 20th St., 599-8630, coloradospringsindiancenter.com.

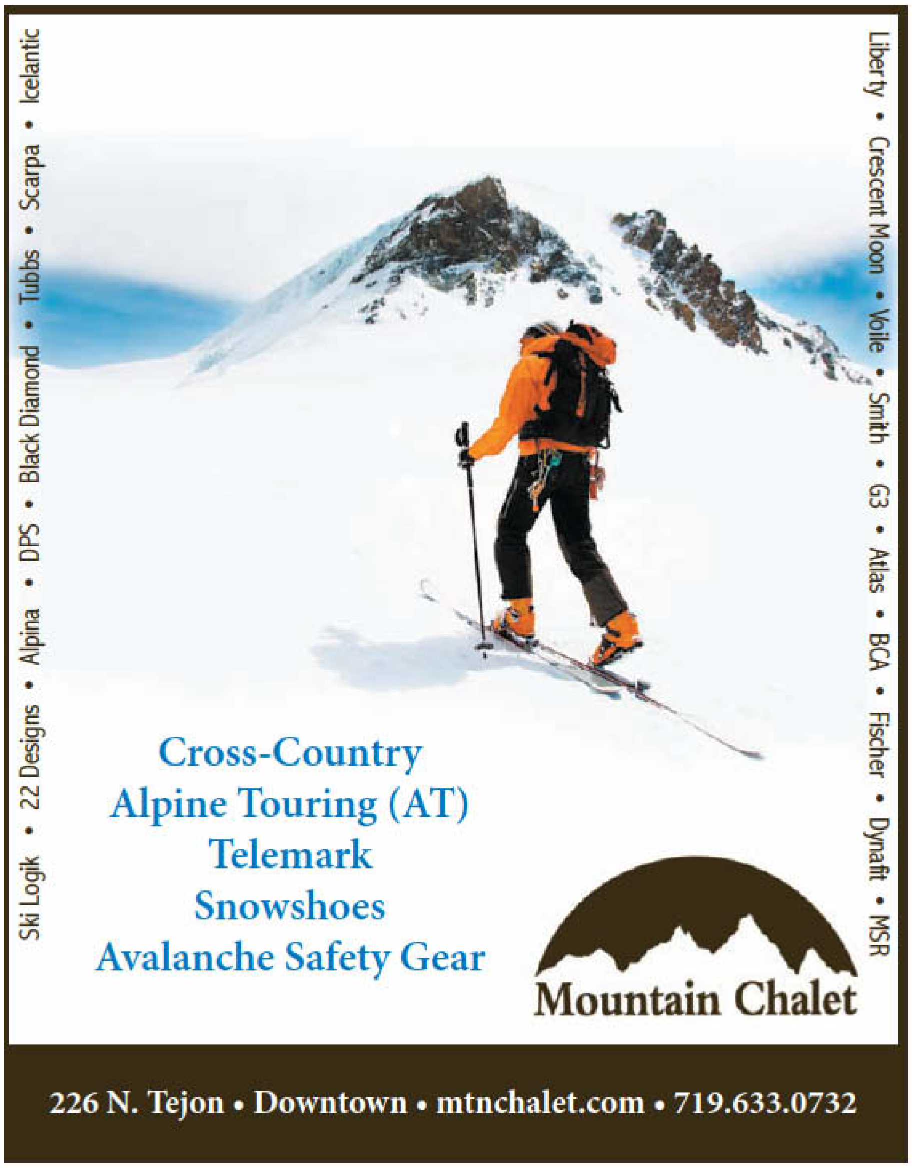
Lectures&Learning

Full Moon Tour, a tour of the facility and a chance to see the wolves up close, followed by coffee and cocoa. Wear warm clothes and bring a flashlight and a camera. Reservations required, no children under 8. Sat., Nov. 24, 5 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 29, 5 p.m. $15-$25. Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center, 4729 Twin Rocks Road, Divide, 687-9742, wolfeducation.org.

Learn to Speak Spanish Club, Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 306-8565, juliober@yahoo.com, cucurugallerycafe.com.

Lunch & A Look at the Garden, weekly lectures touching on topics such as local history, park flora and fauna and more. Call 219-0108 for reservations. Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.; through Dec. 18. Free, lunch at participants' expense. Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 219-0108, gardenofgods.com.

Make Your Own Fresh Evergreen Wreath, a chance to learn the skills behind crafting wreaths and



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Senior Resource Development Agency Classes, registering now for classes and sessions including line dancing, computer skills, painting, quilting and more. See the online calendar for current events. Senior Resource Development Agency, 230 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/545-8900, srda.org.

Small Business Development Center classes, offering courses on topics such as: choosing the right business structure, the legalities of joint ventures, preparing taxes, common legal issues with small businesses and more. Small Business Development Center, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 255-3844, cssbdc.org.

LiteraryEvents

Barnes and Noble Book Signing, a chance to meet athletic trainer Loren Landow and *Denver Post* writer Mike Klis, whose new book *My Off Season With the Denver Broncos* charts the team's path to the AFC West Championship title. Tues., Nov. 27, 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble - Briargate, 1565 Briargate Blvd., 266-9960, store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/3979818.

Covered Treasures Bookstore Book Signing, a chance to meet local authors John Dwaine McKenna and Bert Entwistle, whose books take place in Colorado. Sat., Nov. 24, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Covered Treasures Bookstore, 105 Second St., Monument, 481-2665.

Food for Fines November, a chance to clear any late fees by donating a can of non-perishable food for every dollar owed. Does not apply to lost or damaged items. Through Nov. 30. Manitou Springs Public Library, 701 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5206, manitousprings.colibraries.org.

Word Wednesdays, an open mic session for poets, comedians, actors, singers and other performers to share their work. Search the event on Facebook for more. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 313-0683.

Museums&Attractions

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon St., 385-5990, cspm.org. *Windows Into History*, a chance to get a highlights tour of favorite exhibits and artifacts, chosen by museum staff. Space limited; RSVP required. Saturdays, noon; through Nov. 24. *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars With NASA*, an exhibit exploring the events leading up to the 1969 moon landing and the role Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts characters played in the Apollo 10 launch and the NASA Manned Flight Awareness safety program. Schultz was also once a Springs resident, which will be another part of the show. Through April 20.

National Museum of World War II Aviation, 755 Aviation Way, 637-7559, worldwarIIaviation.org. National Museum of World War II Aviation tours, a new museum featuring aircraft from the WWII era, including a P47D Thunderbolt, TBM Avenger as well as aircraft undergoing restoration, such as the P38 Lightning. The museum is open only three days a week currently, and offers docent-led tours Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. $5-$10, free for WWII generation.

Western Museum of Mining and Industry, 225 Northgate Blvd., 488-0880, RSVP@wmmi.org. "The Gold Assay Process: Magic or Chemistry?" a hands-on introduction to the process that turns ore into gold. A fast-moving, interactive demonstration touching on the math, mechanics and chemistry behind assaying. Suitable for all ages; reservations recommended. Sat., Nov. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. $4-8.

Spirituality

Sound Healing Saturdays, an hour-long sound immersion session with Himalayan singing bowls that helps release physical, emotional and spiritual tension. Last Saturday of every month, 5-7 p.m. $20. Celebration Community Room, 2207 W. Colorado Ave., 487-0260, celebrationstore.com.

Springs Mountain Sangha, offering Zen meditation sessions Monday evenings from 6:10-8 p.m. (newcomers please arrive at 5:45); Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m.; and Saturdays 6:30-8:30 a.m. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 685-1994, smszen.org.

Weekly Spiritual Gathering, weekly, non-religious meet-ups with "laughter, song and great people." RSVP for more information. Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m. By donation. 433-9625, kenpeacecarroll@gmail.com.

SpecialEvents

Repeat Boutique, the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission's annual clothing swap, featuring gently used women's and children's clothing as well as home furnishings, music, books and more. Donations of clothing or household items gladly accepted. Fri., Nov. 23, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. $10. Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission, 332 W. Bijou St. #102, 632-6189, ppjpc.org.

Sports&Recreation

C'mon Run, free weekly 5K runs (or walks) with a free drink for each run and more freebies for the more runs you complete. Thursdays, 5 p.m. C'mon Inn, 711 Dale St., Fountain, 382-7562, cmoninnfountain.com.

Coquette's Incline Club, a Saturday morning workout in rain, snow or shine; also enjoy socializing, coffee and food. Ten climbs earns a free T-shirt. Saturdays, 8 a.m. Coquette's Bistro & Bakery, 915 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-2420, coquettesbistroandbakery.com.

First & Main Run Club, weekly 3K and 5K runs with monthly prizes for club members. Held in the field behind Rock Bottom. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Rock Bottom, 3316 Cinema Point Drive, 550-3586, facebook.com/rbrunclub.

Fundraiser Yoga, a special Vinyasa Flow yoga class with all proceeds going to the Red Cross in support of Hurricane Sandy victims. No fee; just donate what you can. Fri., Nov. 23, 10:30 a.m. cambio. Yoga, 3326 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 321-8547, cambioyoga.com.

Muldooniacs Running Club, weekly runs along the Homestead Trail, with a free drink after every run for of-age participants. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. José Muldoon's - Carefree Circle, 5710 S. Carefree Circle, 574-5673, josemuldoons.com.

Salsa Brava Nacho Ordinary Run Club, a 5K run through the neighborhood with drink specials and menu items just for club members. Freebies include a free T-shirt after five runs, a free appetizer after 10 runs and a free entree after 20 runs. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Salsa Brava Fresh Mexican Grill - Briar Village, 9420 Briar Village Point, 955-6650. Also held Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Salsa Brava Fresh Mexican Grill - Village Center, 802 Village Center Drive, 266-9244, salsabravaonline.com.

SouthSide Johnny's Running Club, a running club with the added benefit of CrossFit, or "workouts comprised of constantly varied functional movements (like pushing, pulling, squatting, lifting, running) executed at high intensity." Wednesdays, 6 p.m. SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487, tinyurl.com/ssjrunning.

University Village Colorado Running Club, a club where you can run, jog or walk on one on-site loop of a single mile, or two others running north or south on the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail for four or six miles round-trip, respectively. Meet by Smashburger to check in. Mondays, 5:15 p.m. Free. University Village Colorado, 5230 N. Nevada Ave., 632-5000, uvcrunningclub.com.

Stage

A Christmas Carol, a puppet production of the classic Dickens tale, featuring all hand-made marionettes. Through Dec. 31. Simpich Showcase, 2413 W. Colorado Ave., 465-2492, simpich.com.

Kitty Crimson, a production from the Peaks and Pasties super troupe, featuring new P&P graduates in a scintillating evening of naughty fun. Sat., Nov. 24, 10 p.m. $5. Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059, peaksandpasties.com.

VolunteerOpportunities

AFS-USA is looking for host families or students who wish to be part of foreign exchange programs. 800/AFS-INFO, afs.org.

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs is seeking local families to host ASSE students. All students are between 15 and 18 years old and have met a series of academic and character requirements. 800/733-2773.

Bear Creek Nature Center is seeking adult volunteers for educational programs, help with special events and assistance with visitor services. 520-6388, paulamegorden@elpasoco.com.

Boys & Girls Club of the Pikes Peak Region seeks volunteers to help with facility maintenance at the Tutt and El Pomar clubs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Through Dec. 19. 322-7175, bgcppr.org.

The Business of Art Center seeks skilled volunteers in the areas of accounting, engineering, grant-writing, energy-saving, organization and food service to get involved in their community

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art endeavors, both in the main space and in the Venue 515 café. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, ludel@thebac.org, thebac.org.

Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado seeks volunteers to help out Mondays through Saturdays. It's also seeking "lead volunteers" who can commit to one or two days a week. Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado, 2605 Preamble Point, 434-5724, careandshare.org.

CASA of the Pikes Peak Region seeks volunteers to advocate for victims of child abuse and neglect. Training provided. CASA of the Pikes Peak Region, 701 S. Cascade Ave., 447-9898, casappr.org.

Colorado Springs Indian Center seeks help with its educational and cultural programs, clerical duties, website support, fundraising, event planning and more. Contact the center to get started. Colorado Springs Indian Center, 701 N. 20th St., 599-8630, coloradospringsindiancenter.com.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance seeks an experienced grant writer for local nonprofit serving individuals and families affected by mood disorders. Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, 2132 E. Bijou, Suite 112, 477-1515, dbsacoloradosprings.org.

Educational Resource Development Trust is seeking families to host foreign exchange students for summer and school year programs. All students are proficient in English. 800/321-3738, erdtshare.org.

Engineers Without Borders seeks volunteers to help with technical work and fundraising for its water project in Bolivia. No experience required. 488-0926, ewbcos.org.

Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care needs volunteers to assist patients and families as companion volunteers, massage therapy volunteers (must be licensed), healing touch volunteers (must be certified). Training provided. Please call 265-1109 for more.

First Visitor at Peak Vista seeks volunteers for this program that helps provide free home support to families with children 0-3. 632-5700.

Lookwhatthecatbroughtin seeks volunteers with bottle-feeding experience for orphaned kittens. Help is also needed with office duties and event assistance. 331-6852, lookwhatthecatbroughtin.org.

North End Adult Day Care seeks volunteers to play games, sing, make arts and crafts and more with North End's seniors, who are in need of memory care. Call for more information. 351-8786, northendadultdaycare.com.

Odyssey HealthCare Hospice is seeking volunteers to offer companionship to people with terminal illnesses by sharing your talents as a musician, artist, pet therapist or just by listening. Volunteers must complete training, call for dates. 573-4166, rshardy@odsyhealth.com.

Pacific Intercultural Exchange is seeking host families in El Paso County for English-speaking exchange students ages 15-18. P.I.E. works to match students with families who have similar interests and lifestyles. To learn more, call 866/546-1402.

Peak Area Council of Governments seeks volunteers with good clerical and customer service skills to help seniors improve their independence and quality of life by working in the Senior Information and Assistance Center (SIAC). Time commitment: 4-7 hours per week. 471-7080, jwilkinson@ppacg.org.

Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care is seeking volunteers in various capacities, especially for help on the weekends, such as working in prescription animal therapy, courier duties, vigil volunteers (who sit with dying patients) and Helping Hands volunteers who perform various chores after a patient dies. Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care, 825 E. Pikes Peak Ave. #600, 633-3400 ext. 600, pikespeakhospice.org.

PICK ***2012 Holiday Extravaganza Revue***, a fun-filled, family-friendly musical and dramatic smorgasbord with Christmas as the theme and old-fashioned stagecraft as the vehicle. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; through Dec. 22. $9.50-29.50. Iron Springs Chateau, 444 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5104, pikes-peak.com/attraction/15.aspx.

(Pikes) Peak Pet Pantry is seeking donations of pet food and volunteers to help pick up and distribute food, talking to business sponsors and contacting local veterinary offices. 217-9528, pikespeakpetpantry.org.

Project Angel Heart urgently seeks delivery drivers for the nutritious meals they provide, at no cost, for those coping with life-threatening illness. Current need has outstripped capacity and the waiting list is growing. Time commitment: Two hours every other week. 303/830-0202, projectangelheart.org.

The Secure the Call Foundation is seeking donations of old cell phones to reprogram for direct 911 calls for free distribution to senior centers, domestic violence shelters and other agencies. 888/883-6628, securethecall.org.

SolAmor Hospice seeks volunteers to provide pet therapy to its terminally ill patients. 226-0091, solamorhospice.com.

Out of Town

art exhibits

Denver Art Museum, 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver, 720/865-5000, denverartmuseum.org. *El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You about Africa*, a retrospective of this African artist, which includes 65 works, made from found objects like scrap metal, bottle caps, wood and other salvaged items. Through Dec. 30. *Dana Schutz: If the Face Had Wheels*, a career survey of this young artist, "recognized for her voracious imagination, strong subject matter and vibrant color palette." Through Jan. 13. *Becoming Van Gogh*, a groundbreaking show chronicling the famous artist's self-taught career. The show — developed by the DAM — features about 70 Van Goghs and 20 works by artists who influenced him. Through Jan. 20.

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Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing **by Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.

StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

Authorities investigating the theft of President Obama's teleprompter and podium last fall identified Eric Brown, 48, as their suspect. The equipment was recovered a few days later in Henrico, Va., but federal investigators continued their search for the culprit because the case involved the president. After an informant reported Brown had bragged about the theft and possessed items bearing the presidential seal, federal agents used tracking data in Brown's cell phone to learn that the phone had been where the items were when they'd been stolen. (Richmond's WTVR-TV)

Border patrol agents who spotted a Jeep Cherokee teetering atop a 14-foot fence in southeast California reported drug smugglers had built ramps to drive up and over the fence but got stuck at the top. Agents said two men on the Mexican side trying to free the Jeep ran away when they approached, but they arrested the occupants of a pickup truck that had already made it over the ramp. (Associated Press)

Mrs. Doubtfire's evil twin

Paul Henry Cannon, 44, pleaded guilty in Waterloo, Iowa, to masquerading as a woman for four months. Cannon wore women's clothing, was issued a driver's license as Shelia Davis, used her birthday and Social Security information, and held two jobs posing as her. He opened a bank account under Davis' name and used it and the driver's license to pass $600 worth of bad checks. Authorities uncovered the ruse after state troopers stopped Cannon driving 92 mph while wearing women's clothing and issued the ticket to Shelia Davis. They later learned the car was stolen and went to arrest the real Shelia Davis, who knows Cannon, but realized they had the wrong person and nabbed Cannon. (*Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*)

Blame game

An Italy court convicted six scientists and a government official of manslaughter for failing to predict the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake, which killed more than 300, and sentenced them to six years in prison. The court also ordered Italian authorities to pay 7.8 million euros ($10 million) in damages. (CNN)

Cane follies

Authorities in Akron, Ohio, evacuated City Hall after someone reported seeing what looked like a pipe bomb: a 4-foot-long aluminum stick with duct tape at both ends and the word "Kaboom" written on it. The Summit County Bomb Squad determined it wasn't a bomb. Further investigation identified it as a homemade cane belonging to James Kaboom, 66, who said he'd forgotten it at a meeting. Noting his family came from Poland, he explained his last name was shortened from Kaboomski. His actual, full legal name is Natural Hunka Kaboom. (NBC News)

After British police received a report of a man carrying a samurai sword through Chorley, in Lancashire, an officer spotted a suspect and ordered him to stop. When he didn't, the officer discharged his Taser, forcing the man to drop the object and fall. According to Chief Superintendent Stuart Williams, it "became apparent that this man was not the person we were looking for." Instead, it was Colin Farmer, 61, a blind man using a white stick to find his way. "It felt like I was grabbing an electricity pylon," Farmer, who has suffered two strokes, said after he was treated at the hospital and apologized to by police, who later arrested a man carrying an actual samurai sword on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly. (BBC News)

When guns are outlawed

A man who rammed into a wall at the Greater Sweethome Missionary Baptist Church in Forest Hill, Texas, apparently on purpose, got out of the car, chased the minister and beat him to death with an electric guitar. Police found Derrick Anthony Birdow assaulting the Rev. Danny Kirk Sr., using a Taser to subdue him. Birdow became unresponsive and died in the patrol car. (Associated Press)

Hidey-hole

Police stopped a car driving erratically in Naples, Fla., observed a bag of marijuana in the back seat and arrested passenger Vida Golac, 18, who was sitting nearest it but denied ownership. Two friends told the officer it wasn't theirs and were allowed to leave. When jail deputies strip-searched Golac, they found more marijuana in her genitals. She insisted it wasn't hers but that she was hiding it to keep her friends from getting in trouble. (*Naples Daily News*)

People for the peopleless

Dozens of schools have begun offering programs to graduate unmanned systems operators for when the Federal Aviation Administration begins integrating drones into the nation's airspace in 2015 by granting personal and commercial licenses to people who meet pilot training and medical requirements.

Retired Air Force colonel and commercial airline pilot Jerry LeMieux opened Unmanned Vehicle University, the world's first school dedicated solely to educating drone operators. UVU, which received its international accreditation in July, offers only online courses.

The University of North Dakota began offering its own degree program in the field of unmanned systems through its Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Matt Waite founded the first "drone journalism lab" to explore the opportunities and ethics of using drones to gather news. (*The Washington Times*)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

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Medical marijuana news of the week

Smoke clouds

After a few legal orders and a failed stay of proceedings, leukemia patient **Bob Crouse** finally received his marijuana back from the Colorado Springs Police Department on Friday.

In June, Crouse was found not guilty of felony cultivation and distribution of marijuana. But police originally declined to return his plants, as required by law. Crouse and his attorney, Clifton Black, sued; they won, but that ruling was appealed at the request of CSPD's police chief, Pete Carey.

While the appeal was being sorted, a judge again mandated the return of Crouse's marijuana. It's unclear if District Attorney Dan May's office will proceed with the appeal at this point.

Taken with the recent passage of marijuana decriminalization measure Amendment 64, and the failure of the DA's office to obtain convictions in high-profile jury trials of MMJ patients, what the Crouse saga portends for future local law enforcement action is unclear.

Last week in this space, we quoted DA spokeswoman Lee Richards as saying that May is "going to re-evaluate and look at some of the cases." Days later, though, May expounded on this to the *Gazette*: "We are not going to be blanket-dismissing these like they did up in Boulder."

Also, after multiple prolonged interactions with members of CSPD and city government, the *Indy* received this statement from the chief (which fails to address anything asked about except the new amendment): "We will continue to follow our current policies involving marijuana related offenses until the Governor certifies the results of Amendment 64 and it becomes law in the state of Colorado — or until the Federal government provides clear guidance."

Common threads

If you're the type of dresser who thinks going green has more to do with the style of leaf on your jacket than the kind of cotton it's made of, we've got a clothing line for you: **First to Legalize** (cafepress.com/firsttolegalize). The product line's been launched on CafePress and features a variety of items featuring the Colorado state flag with a cannabis leaf over the center and the text "First to Legalize, Colorado 2012."

Interestingly, the logo's almost exactly like that of a failed rival initiative to Amendment 64, the Cannabis Re-Legalization Act. It was backed by the Colorado marijuana advocacy group Legalize 2012, who often fought with the amendment-supporting Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol. Further, the CafePress site redirects to legalize2012.com.

The new harmony makes sense, as the legalize2012 site explains: "Now that the initiative has passed ... it is the duty of all cannabis activists to make sure the law is implemented in a way that endangers as few people as possible."

*— **Bryce Crawford***

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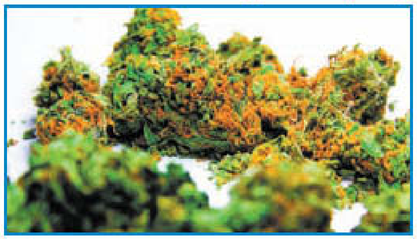

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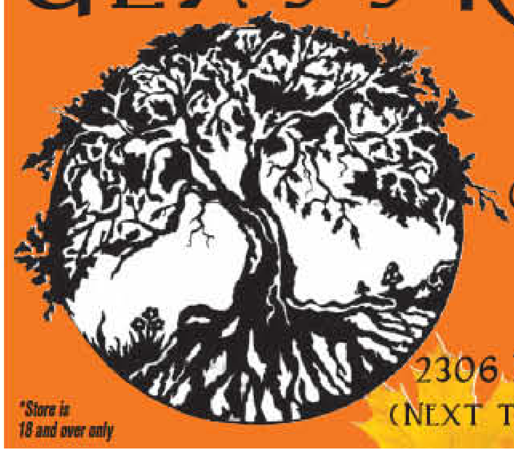

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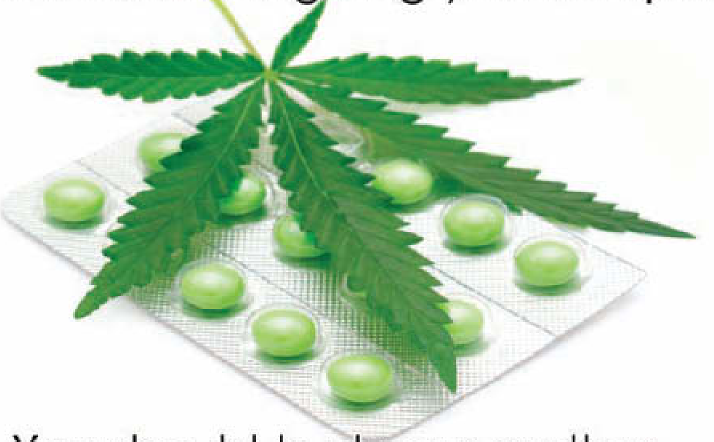

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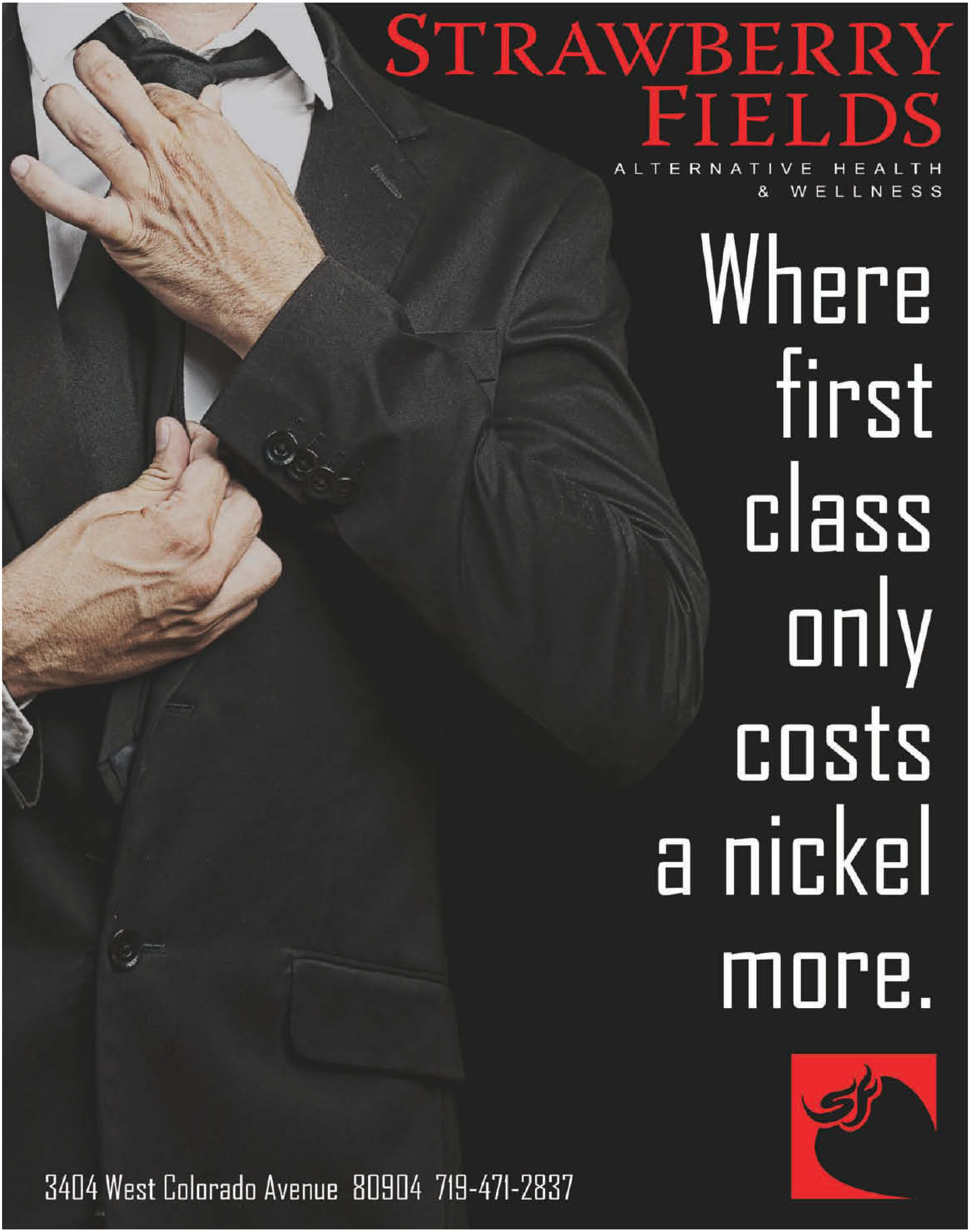
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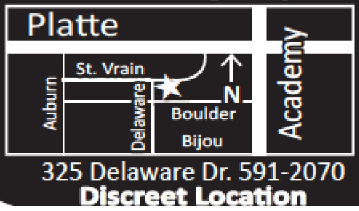

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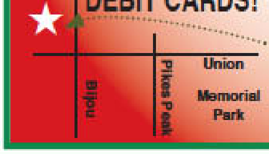

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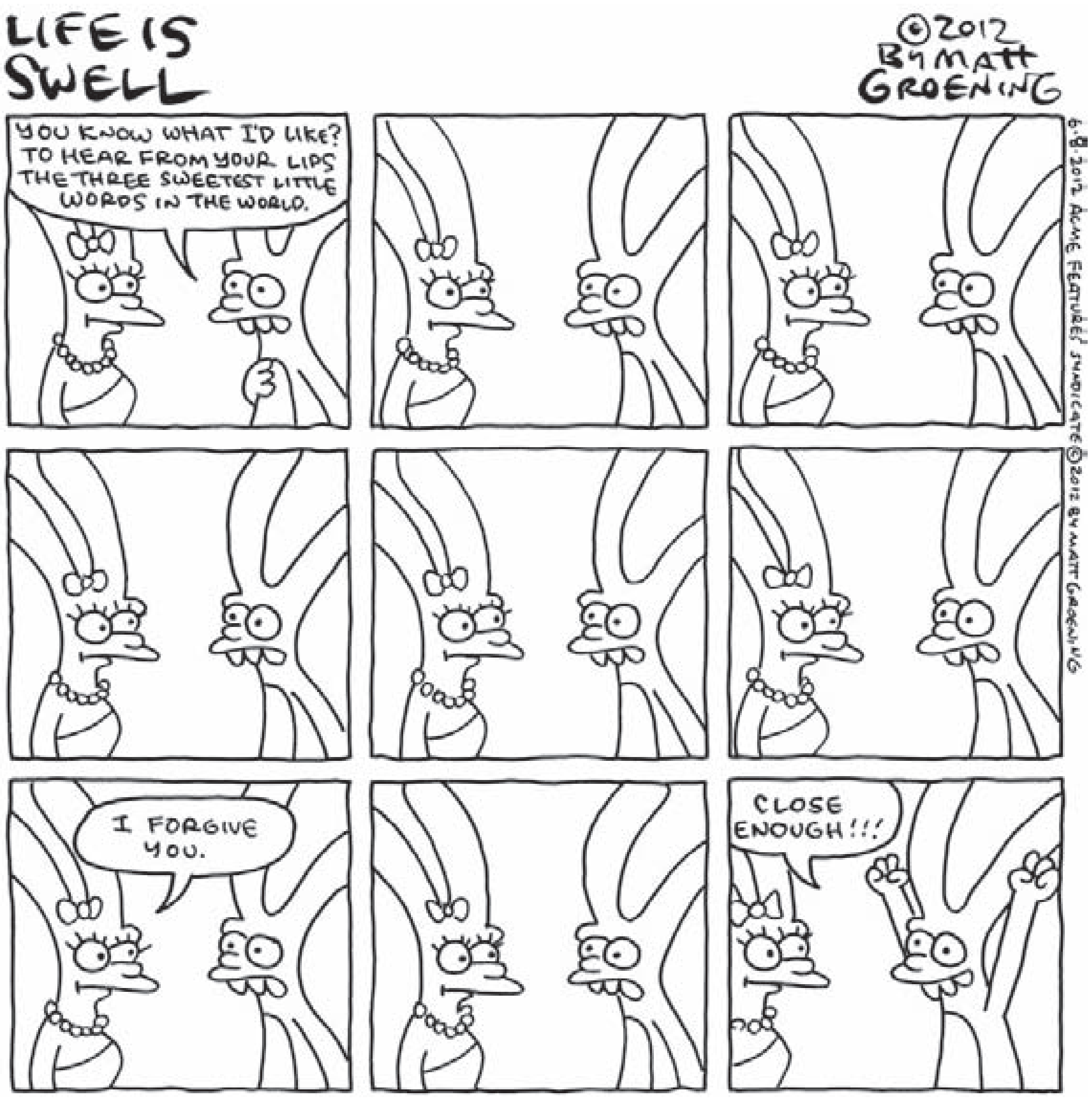
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First publication: November 14, 2012
Last publication: November 21, 2012
The Independent, Colorado Springs, CO

FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsny

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 2007 the band White Stripes toured Canada, with a late gig outdoors in St. John's, Newfoundland. They came on stage, played one note — a C-sharp — and declared the performance over. It was the briefest rock show in history. Judging from the current omens, it would be a good time for you to do some almost equally pithy things. You have the potential to be extremely concise and intense and focused in all you do. I urge you to fulfill that potential. Pack every speech, gesture and action with a concentrated wealth of meaning.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Don't think about making art, just get it done," said Andy Warhol. "Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad, whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art." I encourage you to adopt that mini-manifesto for your own purposes in the coming weeks. If you're not an artist, simply substitute the appropriate phrase for "making art." It could be "creating interesting relationships," "exploring exotic lands," "changing corrupt political institutions," "fixing environmental problems," or even "making money." The main point is: Focus on doing what drives your quest for meaning, and forget about what people think of it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A Jungian writer whose name I have misplaced made the following observation: "In a man's psyche, the unconscious is experienced as chaotic, filled with violent and irrational processes of generation and destruction. But to a woman's psyche the unconscious is a fascinating matrix of sacred images and rituals which in their wildly contradictory meanings express the secret unity of all life." After analyzing the omens, I suspect that Taurus men have an unprecedented opportunity to experience your unconscious as women do. Taurus women: You have the chance to get a vivid, visceral understanding of how true this description of the female unconscious is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Let's talk about the Decision you have been dancing around and fretting about and analyzing to death. By my estimate, there are at least 15 different solutions you could pursue. But just seven of those solutions would meet the requirements of being intelligent, responsible and fun. Of those seven, only four would be intelligent, responsible, fun and enduring. Of those four, only two would be intelligent, responsible, fun, enduring and the best for all concerned. I suggest you opt for one of those two.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I'm not necessarily asserting that you need to edit yourself, Cancerian. Only you can decide that. But I will state unequivocally that if there is in fact any editing needed, now would be a good time to do it. You will have extra insight about what aspects of your life might benefit from being condensed, corrected and fine-tuned. It's also true that the rectifications you do in the coming weeks will be relatively smooth and painless. So look into the possibilities, please. Should you calm your blame reflex? Downsize a huffy attitude? Shed some emotional baggage?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): How many times have you been in love, Leo? Just once or twice? Or have you dived into the depths of amorous togetherness again and again over the years? Whatever the case may be, I bet you have strong ideas about the nature of passionate romance and profound intimacy. That's natural and normal. But I'm going to ask you to temporarily forget everything you think you know about all that stuff. I invite you to become innocent again, cleansed of all your mature, jaded, hopeful and resentful thoughts about the game of love. In my astrological opinion, there's no better way for you to prepare for what will come next.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A medical research journal reported on a British woman who accidentally swallowed a felt-tip pen. It lay there in her stomach for 25 years. When surgeons finally removed it, they were surprised to find it still worked. I am not suggesting that anything remotely as exotic or bizarre will be happening to you, Virgo. I do suspect, though, that you will soon have an experience with certain metaphorical resemblances to that event. For example, you may retrieve and find use for an element of your past that has been gone or missing for a long time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Sapiosexual" refers to a person erotically attracted to intelligence. Urbandictionary.com gives an example of usage: "I want an incisive, inquisitive, insightful, irreverent mind. I want someone for whom philosophical discussion is foreplay. I want a sapiosexual." In the coming weeks, Libra, I suspect you will be closer to fitting this definition than you've ever been before. The yearning that's rising up in you is filled with the need to be stimulated by brilliance, to be influenced by wisdom, to be catalyzed by curiosity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your redesigned thrust vectoring matrix is finally operational. Love those new nozzles! Moreover, you've managed to purge all the bugs from your cellular tracking pulse, and your high-resolution flux capacitor is retooled and as sexy as a digitally remastered simulation of your first kiss. You're almost ready for take-off, Sagittarius! The most important task left to do is to realign your future shock absorbers. No more than a week from now, I expect you to be flying high and looking very, very good.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The plot twists will be intriguing. The actors may be unpredictable, even erratic. Blossoming and decay will be happening simultaneously, and the line between wisdom and craziness could get blurry. There's not nearly enough room in this little horoscope to describe the epic sweep of the forces working behind the scenes. Are you willing to confront uncanny truths that other people might regard as too unruly? Are you brave enough to penetrate to the depths that others are too timid to look at, let alone deal with? I hope you are, Capricorn, because that will give you the power to ultimately emerge from the drama with your integrity shining and your intelligence boosted.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Psychologists have done studies suggesting we subconsciously adopt the qualities of fictional characters we read about or see in movies. That's fine if those characters are smart, ethical, highly motivated people whose ideals are similar to ours. But if the heroes are jerks who treat others badly and make messes wherever they go, our imitative urges may lead us astray. Right now is a crucial time for you to be extra careful about the role models you allow to seep into your imagination. You're especially susceptible to taking on their attributes. Be proactive: Expose yourself intensely to only the very best fictional characters who embody the heights you aspire to reach.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "The fates guide him who will; him who won't, they drag." So said the ancient Greek philosopher Seneca, and now I'm passing it on to you. It's an excellent time for you to think about the issue. Ask yourself: Have you been cooperating with fate so that it has maximum power to shepherd you? Have you been working closely with fate, giving it good reasons to consistently provide you with useful hints and timely nudges? Or have you been you avoiding fate, even resisting it out of laziness or ignorance, compelling it to yank you along? Spend the next few weeks making sure your relationship with fate is strong and righteous.

HOMEWORK: What good old thing could you give up in order to attract a great new thing into your life? Testify at freewillastrology.com.

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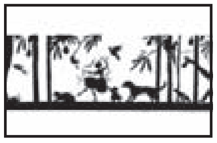
Miscellaneous



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Brainiac Alert!

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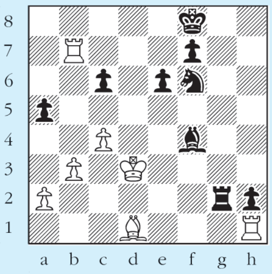

BLACK TO PLAY

Hint: Force checkmate.

For puzzle answers, see page 62

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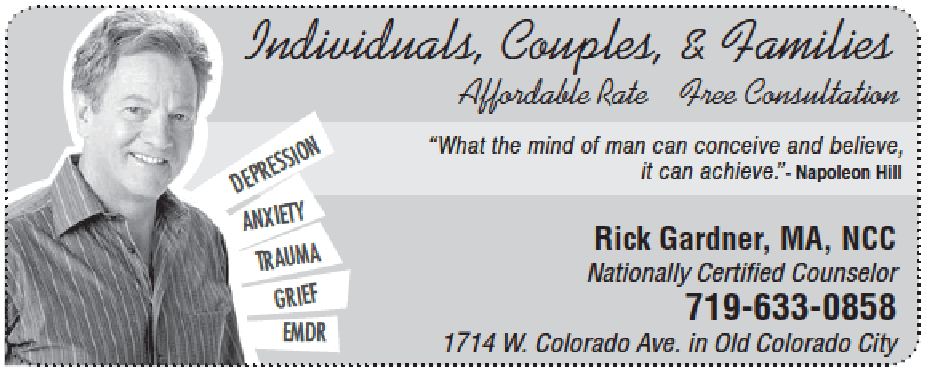

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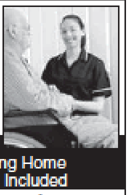

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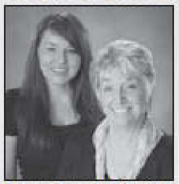

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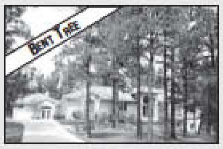

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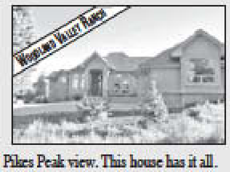

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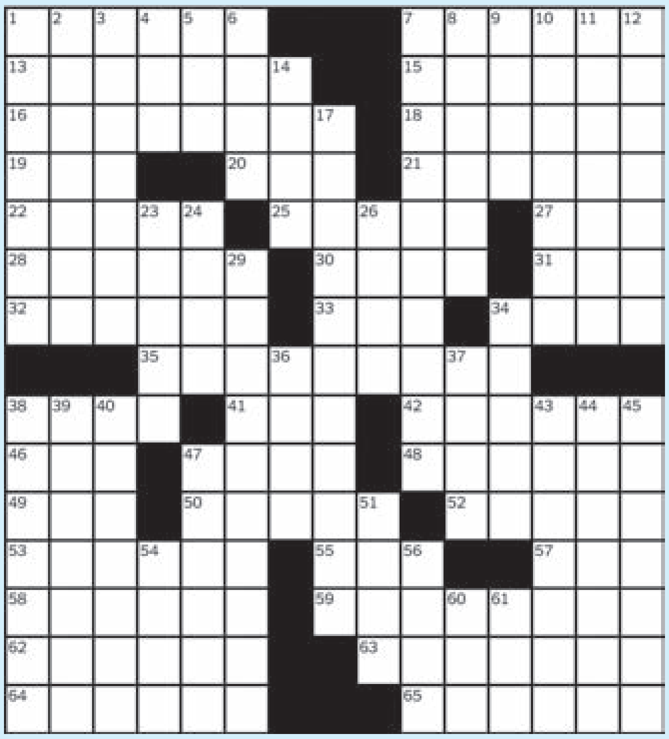

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1 ___-on-Don, Russian port of 1+ million
7 Tycoon, informally
13 Theoretically
15 Maryland state symbol
16 Wassily ___, Russian-American Nobelist in Economics
18 Like the Kremlin
19 Comics outburst
20 Conservative leader?
21 Divulges
22 Nouri al-Maliki, for one
25 Pro ___
27 Highest-rated
28 They may be sold by the dozen
30 Desirous look
31 "Third Uncle" singer
32 When repeated, cry after an award is bestowed
33 Alphabet run
34 Clay pigeon launcher
35 End of the saying
38 Persevering, say
41 Dictionnaire entry
42 Shade of red
46 Single dose?
47 "Got milk?" cry, perhaps
48 Cerumen
49 "For hire" org. of the 1930s
50 Picker-upper
52 Watts in a film projector?
53 Drill instructors?
55 What may be caught with bare hands?
57 Treadmill setting
58 Half
59 It's not required
62 Info on a personal check: Abbr.
63 Mandela portrayer in "Invictus," 2009
64 Long Island county
65 Certain race entry

DOWN

1 Product whose commercials ran for a spell on TV?
2 Undiversified, as a farm
3 Expo '74 locale
4 Go for the bronze?
5 Go (for)
6 Red Cross hot line?
7 Start of a four-part saying
8 Unpaid debt
9 Window treatment
10 Ride up and down?
11 City in the Alleghenies
12 Justin Bieber's genre
14 Ship hazard
17 Part 3 of the saying
23 Search
24 Intense desire
26 Silver State city
29 Part 2 of the saying
34 Latin land
36 Create an open-ended view?
37 Stand for
38 Lady pitcher
39 Pudding thickener
40 It leans to the right
43 Setting for Clint Eastwood's "Flags of Our Fathers"
44 Russian urn
45 Urgent
47 Italian tourist attraction, in brief
51 Leg part
54 Team that got a new ballpark in 2009
56 Ship hazard
60 Corp. head
61 Sleuth, informally

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 62

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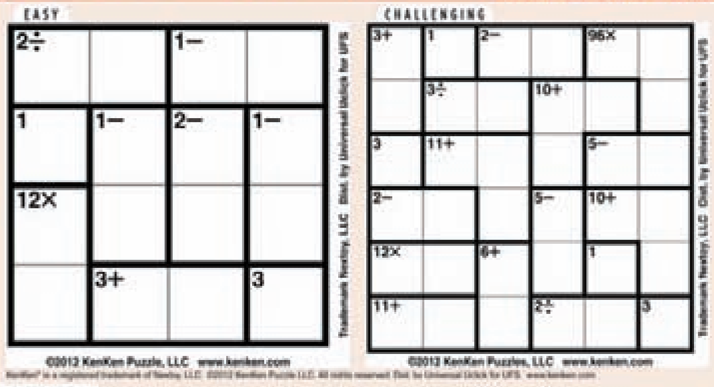
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Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 62

RULES

❶ Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
❷ The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
❸ Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

The call of doodie

Loved your response to the bored-out-of-their-gourds parents of the 1-year-old. I'm three months pregnant and a little worried in the wake of a recent dinner party. There were four sets of new parents there, and all the wives seemed to resent the hell out of their husbands. The husbands, predictably, seemed defensive and angry in response. My husband and I have a really great partnership, and I'd like to keep it that way. Are there things we can do to avoid the parental hate stage, or ... fret, fret ... is it an inevitability that comes with the stress of having a child? — Baby On Board

Today's marriage is reportedly a more equal partnership. For a lot of couples who become parents, here's how that works: The woman blimps out for nine months, spends hours and hours in agony squeezing a huge thing out an extremely small opening, and then becomes a 24-hour milk dispenser and poo-slave for the better part of a year. The man holds her hand and says "You can do it, honey!" while she's in labor, helps name the kid, and then, when friends come over to watch the World Series, picks it up and says, "Look what we made!"

Daddy can bottle-feed if Mommy breast-pumps.

Trophy dads aside, if there's one area of parenting that breeds eye-daggers of wifely resentment, it's unequal sleeplessness.

Yeah, I know, according to the Beatles, "love is all you need," but they forgot the small print: This is only true of people who are not suffering from sleep deprivation, which, by the way, is not only a necessity for tending to one's newborn but a form of torture banned by the Geneva Conventions.

Sure, there are certain biological problems with sharing the nightly feeding duties. But, just because the booby with the drinks in it is on only one of you doesn't mean there can't be catering. In other words, Daddy can bottle-feed if Mommy breast-pumps, and nothing's stopping him from diaper-changing. What matters is that Mommy and Daddy are going halfsies on sleeplessness. As a happily married male friend with a new baby puts it, it's essential to "scrupulously share" wakeup duty, or a wife who used to look lovingly at her sleeping spouse may begin calculating how much jail time she'd get for smothering him with a pillow.

During daylight hours, a little time off for the stay-at-home mom, even for 20 minutes after Dad comes home, is a huge relief, as are playdates — one night a week for her to go out with friends and be a person instead of a big udder.

Just a little alleviation goes a long way in showing that a husband doesn't think women have babies and men have babies as props — to parade around Starbucks in a BabyBjorn, making all the hot girls coo, and then hand back to Mom until the kid's old enough to be interesting: "Hey, little man, Daddy's gotta read the newspaper and putter around the garage for six or seven years. Let's talk when you're big enough to throw a ball around."

Silent knight

I'm thinking I should wait until after Christmas to break up with my girlfriend of two years. She is planning on accompanying me to my family's for the holidays and otherwise has no place to go. (I'm picturing her home alone, maybe calling her stepbrother she talks to once a year.) — Not Jolly

When your thought is "I think we should start seeing other people," it isn't supposed to mean making your girlfriend spend a week with your grandma and 62 of your closest relatives. Although you're trying to be kind, delaying your breakup is the wrong thing to do. You break up with somebody as soon as you know, which means they can lick their wounds and get on to somebody who does want them that much sooner. (There are exceptions to the immediacy rule, like if it's two days before your girlfriend has finals or if somebody's just died and she's on her way to identify the body.)

Just think how what you're suggesting could play out. In the weeks before Christmas, she'll likely sense that something's not quite right. She'll gnaw endlessly on this with her girlfriends, and they'll come up with the perfect solution ... Santa lingerie! When you finally end it, she'll likely drag out of you that you weren't really feelin' it — starting around Halloween. So, besides the painful emotions that accompany any breakup, you'll be giving her the gift of humiliation as she replays the mental video of herself prancing around in a Santa hat and jingle bell pasties ... on what turned out to be the biggest chopping day of the year.

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

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This week's answers

SUDOKU

3	6	7	2	9	4	8	1	5
2	5	1	8	7	6	9	3	4
4	9	8	3	5	1	2	6	7
7	2	5	6	8	9	3	4	1
8	1	9	5	4	3	7	2	6
6	3	4	7	1	2	5	9	8
5	4	6	9	3	7	1	8	2
9	8	2	1	6	5	4	7	3
1	7	3	4	2	8	6	5	9

KENKEN

2	1	3	5	4	6
1	2	6	3	5	4
3	5	4	2	6	1
6	4	2	1	3	5
4	3	5	6	1	2
5	6	1	4	2	3

2	1	3	4
1	3	4	2
3	4	2	1
4	2	1	3

Crossword

R	O	S	T	O	V	■	■	■	F	A	T	C	A	T
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A	C	K	■	■	N	E	O	■	L	E	T	S	O	N
I	R	A	Q	I	■	F	O	R	M	A	■	T	O	P
D	O	N	U	T	S	■	L	E	E	R	■	E	N	O
S	P	E	E	C	H	■	M	N	O	■	T	R	A	P
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W	P	A	■	T	O	N	I	C	■	N	A	O	M	I
O	I	L	M	E	N	■	C	A	B	■	■	J	O	G
M	O	I	E	T	Y	■	E	L	E	C	T	I	V	E
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N	A	S	S	A	U	■	■	■	G	O	C	A	R	T

CHESS QUIZ

From page 58:
1. Rd2ch!
2. Kc3 Ne4 mate!

EndZone

By Ralph Routon

Rockies: Weiss a smart pick

During the early seasons of the Colorado Rockies, those of us covering the team spotted several potential future managers on the roster.

The most obvious was catcher **Joe Girardi**, who had the right mix of smarts, steadiness and determination. Some thought ever-popular outfielder **Dante Bichette** might have a chance someday. Another catcher, **Eric Wedge**, impressed everybody who knew him. Yet another catcher and utility player, **Danny Sheaffer** (who had played here with the Sky Sox), also seemed like a possibility.

Then there was shortstop **Walt Weiss**, who ranked near the top of my list. He played hard, he knew the game, his fundamentals were solid, his attitude always superlative — and he stood out as a quiet leader.

Girardi, of course, would go on to lead the New York Yankees to championships, first on the field and then as skipper. Wedge managed Cleveland for seven years (he was American League Manager of the Year in 2007) and now oversees the Seattle Mariners. Sheaffer, after a handful of years as a successful Triple-A manager, now is a roving minor-league instructor for Houston. Bichette was content raising his family in Orlando — until a few weeks ago.

Weiss had served the Rockies in several capacities, but never on the field staff, remaining in Denver and most recently coaching at Regis High School.

So, many folks didn't take it too seriously when the Rockies interviewed Weiss as a possible replacement for **Jim Tracy**. After all, if the hire would be an inside promotion, bench coach **Tom Runnells** (who managed in Colorado Springs from 2006 to mid-2009) looked to be first in line, and totally deserving.

Instead, Weiss got the job. Skeptics saw it as a recipe for failure, buying time with a guy whom the fans undoubtedly will like. Until the Rockies can reinvent their pitching, it's not realistic to expect anything but mediocrity at best.

SPORTS SHOT

Fresh voice **It was so enjoyable having Mike Haynes, normally the Colorado Avalanche announcer, doing TV play-by-play and offering expert analysis for the first Colorado College-Denver hockey game last weekend on Altitude.**

Anticipation **Colorado opens its Pac-12 women's basketball schedule at home Jan. 4 against Stanford, which just knocked off NCAA champion Baylor.**

Too bad **Those college football upsets last Saturday only underscore the need for playoffs now: Imagine watching semifinals of Notre Dame vs. Kansas State and Alabama vs. Oregon.**

Open spot **Air Force knows it will face a Conference USA team in the Armed Forces Bowl on Dec. 29 at Fort Worth, Texas, perhaps East Carolina, Rice or Marshall.**

Before everyone gives up on 2013, though, Weiss is making some smart moves putting together his staff. Fully admitting his need for on-the-job learning, he convinced Runnells to stay on as bench coach. Weiss also hired Bichette as hitting coach, which might seem like another stretch except that the new staff also includes **Rene Lachemann** as first-base coach.

Lachemann has been around forever, with three stints as a major-league manager, including the Florida Marlins when Weiss played there before coming to Colorado in 1994. Lachemann has spent the past five seasons as the Rockies' Triple-A hitting coach here in Colorado Springs, and since he already has worked with nearly all of the team's hitters, you can be sure he'll be mentoring Bichette.

Weiss made two other good choices: **Jim Wright** as pitching coach and **Stu Cole** as third-base coach. Wright had been the bullpen coach, definitely a thankless job last year, but he's been in the organization since the 1990s and actually was pitching coach in 2002. Cole managed the Sky Sox from mid-2009 through 2012, somehow maintaining the team's equilibrium amid constant roster maneuverings.

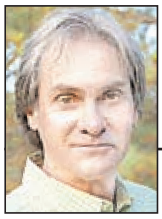
Granted, this has to be a low-budget staff for the Rockies, with so many having come up through the organization. But they aren't planning on more years like the franchise's 64-98 nightmare last season. Even before Weiss became manager, Colorado hired a longtime major-league pitching coach, **Mark Wiley**, as director of pitching operations, putting him in charge of developing pitchers at all levels. The clear intent is to create a new philosophy, and not make excuses as in recent years (for instance, the altitude).

Let's also remember that the Rockies have the makings of a decent everyday lineup, anchored by **Troy Tulowitzki**, **Carlos Gonzalez**, **Dexter Fowler**, **Wilin Rosario** and, of course, **Todd Helton**. If he isn't traded, **Michael Cuddyer** could share time at first with Helton as well as in the outfield. And young guys like **Tyler Colvin, Jordan Pacheco, Josh Rutledge** and perhaps **Charlie Blackmon** will have every chance to make it.

We'll have to see how fast the Rockies can stabilize, and how soon their pitching can come around.

But don't waste your time worrying about Walt Weiss. He'll be fine.

— routon@csindy.com



RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

My personal melon bawl

It was just before 9 o'clock last Thursday night at our village's Pikes Peak Center. Famous singer **Jackson Browne** was pounding out his 1980s classic "In the Shape of a Heart" and I was watching him — I am not kidding — through the thinning hair on top of the head of the big guy sitting in front of me, a guy with a prodigious cranium that was "in the shape of a trash can."

I was actually looking through the man's sparsely treed melon forest because I could not get a clear view of the singer or even the stage by looking over or around his vast skull. I knew it would be a long, long night.

So Jackson Browne was singing right there in front of us, I guess, and I and the people around me had to settle for the audio version because the guy with the rhino head brought a friend with an even larger gourd. Together the two oil-freighter-sized heads killed any hope of actually seeing the performance.

The guys with the big heads came with a regular-sized pharmacist who spent nearly the entire night playing with his iPhone and a fourth guy, a chiropractor — my chiropractor, actually. The back doc is a good guy and a big guy, too, but not as big as his two friends with the pumpkin heads who, perhaps because they've grown weary of listening to their chiropractor buddy talk about the need for good posture, spent the entire evening sitting up all nice and straight and tall.

I was listening to Jackson Browne from behind the Hindenburg.

Jackson Browne kept on singing, and those of us directly behind the guys with the huge heads — frankly, the last time I saw anything with a head that big was on the National Geographic Channel and it was being chased by a Japanese harpoon boat — had for the most part given up hope for any unobstructed view.

So I settled for looking at the legendary singer and songwriter through the wispy hair of Godzilla.

The guy to my left was pretty perturbed by all of this. He was 6-foot-4 but still had no chance of seeing Jackson Browne because of the Volkswagen head on the second guy, the guy sitting in front of him, who had white hair and to be honest, the last time I saw anything that big covered in white you had to get to the top of it on a chair lift.

The wife of the tall guy next to me had been in the seat now occupied by her husband. But she elbowed him and switched seats mere seconds after the two guys with the monumental blocks plopped down in front of us. There was no way she was going to see around these partially hair-covered planets so the husband obliged his wife because, well, that's always the best thing to do.

My pleasant next-seat neighbor and I tried to be nice. Twice I asked Big Head Todd and Bigger Head Todd if they could, possibly, just slide or slouch down in their seats a bit, just a tad even, so we could see something other than their Herculean noodles.

The guys with the mammoth beans responded by snickering and sitting up straighter and because they were maybe 260 pounds each and I didn't want to end up rolling around in the aisle with them during "Tender Is the Night," I accepted my night's fate — listening to Jackson Browne from behind the Hindenburg.

Later, when Jackson moved into "Take It Easy" with that still-smooth voice, the place rocked, which the Astro-domed guy in front of me took as a signal to sit up straighter and use his iPhone for 15 minutes — perhaps checking his e-mail to see if the ship carrying his $1,200 custom-made golf cap had made port.

Anyway, that was about it for the Jackson Browne concert. He was great, his songs and his voice and classic guitar filling the night. Or at least the small part of the night that the jumbo noggins were not filling.

***Rich Tosches (rangerrich@csindy.com) also writes a Sunday column in the* Denver Post.**

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EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 30, 2012